

JULY 2008

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COMMUNICATING PASSION AND MISSION

Canada and Bermuda

Who's Afraid of Evangelism?

How to share your faith and
still be real

Hot Summer Reading

Velvet Elvis; Jesus for President

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TAKE 5

NOW HERE!

A new way to share the love of Christ with your neighbours. See page 16 for further details



Giving
Hope
Today

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Mission Statements

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

Salvationist informs readers about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda while engaging them with our biblical mission and purpose.

Faith & Friends

Are you sharing your faith? When you finish reading *Faith & Friends* in the centre of this issue, pull it out and give it to someone who needs to hear about Christ's life-changing power. You'll both be glad you did.



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Act Naturally?

What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? How is this expressed to family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues? If we are Christ's people, should it be apparent through our lifestyle and attitude toward others? Is it sufficient for Christians to just "be themselves" or, as Ringo Starr of Beatles fame used to sing, "All I gotta do is act naturally"?

These are important questions. I am reminded of Jesus' words: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In this issue of *Salvationist*, we probe what it means individually and corporately for us to be his witnesses. There are no shortcuts to sharing the gospel, no simple formulas that will magically convert people to belief in Christ. At the same time, I'm convinced that sharing our faith is not as difficult as we make it out to be. We don't need to be afraid of evangelism.

This month's contributors offer perspectives that will cause you to examine your own Christian walk and witness:

Rick Tobias, CEO of Toronto's Yonge Street Mission, promotes "non-violent" evangelism, especially when witnessing to broken and hurting people.

Captain Debra Blackman plants a seed in the heart of an inquisitive neighbour and watches it grow.

Major Keilah Toy transports us to China where short-term missions are changing her congregation's worldview.

Glenn Smith tells how a breakthrough Harvard study can help us influence others to say "yes" to Christ.

We also proudly unveil the new Take 5 strategy (see page 16), a simple way to use *Faith & Friends* as a bridgebuilder with friends and neighbours. Sharing Jesus doesn't have to be stressful or intimidating, but it helps to have a plan. Order the Take 5 DVD from the editorial department to maximize *Faith & Friends'* potential in your corps or ministry unit.

On a final note, we honour the work and witness of Lt-Colonels Ray and Marilyn Moulton as they join the ranks of active retirees this month. Their leadership and contribution to the editorial department has been significant and we salute them.

Major Jim Champ
Editor-in-Chief

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New Editor-in-Chief Appointed



Mjr Jim Champ

With this issue the editorial department is pleased to welcome Major Jim Champ as the new editor-in-chief and literary secretary for the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

Born and raised in London, Ont., Jim studied business at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Windsor. He worked for a chartered accountancy firm in Chatham, Ont., before entering training as a member of the Soldiers of the Cross Session in Toronto. Commissioned in 1975, Jim married his wife, Barbara, the following year and together they served in corps appointments in Nipawin, Melfort and Moose Jaw, Sask. Following a period as divisional youth leaders in Ontario North and another corps appointment at Mount Hamilton, Ont., they were appointed to the United Kingdom Territory, where they served as corps officers for six years at Peterborough, England. Returning to Canada in 1990, they were appointed to Scarborough Citadel, Toronto, before serving as divisional officers in Alberta.

Since 2002, Jim has served as assistant chief secretary, THQ, while Barbara continues to serve as manager of the spiritual and religious care department at the Scarborough Hospital—Grace Campus, THQ health services.

Did you know...

...16 percent of Canadians claim no religious affiliation? According to Statistics Canada, this increases to nearly one in three in some Toronto neighbourhoods

...Frank O'Dea, co-founder of Second Cup, credits The Salvation Army as one of three important supports that helped him leave his street life?

...the Montreal Road thrift store in Ottawa won the Community Spirit

Salvation Army Delegates at Women's Holiness Conference

In April, six officers represented the Canada and Bermuda Territory at Come to the Waters, a holiness conference for women clergy in Nashville, Tennessee. Major Linda McNutt, divisional women's ministries secretary, Manitoba

and Northwest Ontario Division, reports, "There was a wonderful spirit in the group—seeking, caring, empowering. The worship times were uplifting and the speakers interesting and easy to listen to."



Canada and Bermuda delegates to holiness conference

Commissioner M. Christine MacMillan, international director for social justice, IHQ, addressed Salvation Army delegates during the conference. She brought the group up to date on the work being accomplished by the Social Justice Commission.

The conference, open to Wesleyan/Holiness women clergy, is held every second year. It offers participants an opportunity to sit, as Mary did, at Jesus' feet, listening, learning and being loved.

Kids Connect in Saskatchewan

On April 4 and 5, children from all over Saskatchewan gathered in Regina to connect with each other, their environment and God. On Friday night they enjoyed swimming and a sleepover. On Saturday, they cleaned up two parks, then gathered together for worship. They spent time doing crafts, playing games and focusing upon God's creation, in keeping with Earth Day. The weekend provided an opportunity for the children to experience absolute freedom in worship. Led by FUEL, a worship team from Edmonton Temple, they sang and danced in the presence of God.



Young participants experience worship at junior youth councils

Award? It was one of 10 prominent businesses honoured at the Quartier Vanier Fifth Annual Business Awards Gala in April

...Mjr Ian Swan, associate dean for extended learning, WCBC, has been appointed to the SALT College Advisory Board in Zimbabwe?

...Mjr Wendy Swan, extended learning program director, WCBC, contributed to a panel of ecumenical theological formation sponsored by the Faith and

Witness Commission of the Canadian Council of Churches?

...between 2001 and 2006, Canada's foreign-born population increased by 13.6 percent—four times higher than the growth rate for the Canadian-born population during the same period?

...WCBC placed students from its social work program in 34 field placements in and around Winnipeg? The students contributed more than 15,000 hours of service to the community

Thrift Stores Go Green in Dryden and Kenora

As of April 1, the Kenora and Dryden, Ont., thrift stores have gone green. Driven by the desire to exercise good environmental stewardship, they now use energy-efficient light bulbs, biodegradable cleansers and recycled shopping bags. They also provide receptacles for collecting batteries and cellphones, in addition to paper and plastic for recycling.



Cpt Tony Gosse, CO, Lake of the Woods CC (Kenora), with thrift store employee Elberta Crowley

Multicultural Celebration in London

The Good Friday service at Westminster Park, London, Ont., had an international flavour this year. More than 500 people of all ages, representing 25 countries, gathered for a celebration of their unity in Christ.

The program began when flags were marched into the auditorium while the congregation sang *He Reigns*. This was followed by a recitation of the Lord's Prayer in English, German, Russian, Spanish and French. Special items included music and dance from Columbia, Ecuador and Peru as well as selections from the corps band. The evening concluded with a time of fellowship during which people enjoyed a selection of foods from around the world.

On the day Christians look back at Christ's sacrificial death, the service also looked forward to the final fruit of that work. Participants reflected on the words of Revelation 7:9: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."



Flags and participants from Westminster Park's Good Friday celebration

Camping Out in Cranbrook

Sometimes we can better understand someone's situation when we've experienced a little of what they live with. The expression "walk a mile in their shoes" expresses that sentiment. Captain Linda Green, CO, Kootenay Valley Community Church, along with members of the Cranbrook Ministerial Association, identified with the homeless when they spent a night in April sleeping in tents in a local park. The effort was part of a strategy to raise awareness of the lack of affordable housing in the community.

The 30 participants were joined by several of the city's down-and-out citizens as the temperature dipped to -2C. There are approximately 25 adults who live on Cranbrook's streets, in addition to those who find temporary accommodation with friends.

A shelter program, operated from a local church, provides lodging from October until the end of April. The Salvation Army provides laundry and shower facilities as well as a feeding program in addition to its thrift store and family services. Corps members hope to develop a permanent facility that will enable them to be a greater means of support to those in need.

Cranbrook clergy prepare for a chilly night



North Bay Curves Delivers

In March, Curves fitness locations in North Bay, Ont., held food drives in support of The Salvation Army. Through the generous help of local residents, they gathered a total of 2,362 kilograms for use in the local Army food bank. "Pete," an enthusiastic volunteer, helped deliver the much-needed donation.



Sowing Seeds of Faith

You don't need to be an expert to share Christ with your neighbour. Just scatter the right seed, pray and watch it grow



by Captain Debra Blackman

Corps Officer, Khi Community Church, Milton, Ont.

I dig my hand into the seed bag and gently scatter its contents on the ground. Autumn has arrived and I'm faithfully seeding my lawn for the spring. It's difficult to believe that these dry seeds can actually grow to become the lush lawn I am imagining. I think of everything that can go wrong. Will weeds crop up to strangle my grass? Will birds peck away my labours? Fearful for these seeds, I actually say a little prayer over them.

My neighbour, Tom, saunters over from across the street. He makes some small talk about the yard and then the topic turns to church. It's always like this with Tom. He knows we are pastors. He tells us all he knows about the hypocrisy of the church, the impending end times and anything else that seems religious in nature.

He's testing us. He is spiritually aware, reads the Bible and has a distinct sense of calling about certain things. He wants to talk "spiritual"—we want to talk "Jesus."

We have prayed for Tom and his family from our first meeting.

"Y'know," he says, "when the last guys moved out of your house I had a vision. God told me that whoever moved in next, that would be my future. And then you guys move in and there's a church in your house."

"Maybe God wants you to be part of our church," I smile, stating the obvious.

We've had this conversation before. It usually ends up with a rehearsal of the ills of every church in town, televangelists and bad Christians in general. But this time something else is stirring in Tom.

"Yeah, maybe ..." he responds.

I feel as though I'm living the parable as I stand over my newly seeded patch of mud and watch the seed of faith begin to stir inside Tom.

What Seed Are You Scattering?

As a seed grows to a mature plant it produces fruit that, in turn, holds more seeds. As disciples of Christ we are meant to bear fruit that, as the Holy Spirit blows life into us, scatters seed everywhere we go. This is how we become the witnesses referred to in Acts 1:8. If this "scattering of seed" is such a natural product of our maturity in Christ, why does evangelism seem so overwhelming?

Last summer, I was reading the account of Jesus' Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:1-15, an allegory for the way that spiritual growth happens in people's lives. The seed is scattered on various types of soil with the result that some seed dies right away, other seed springs up and withers later, and yet other seed grows and yields a huge harvest. The story was very familiar to me, but what hit me like a ton of bricks was one sentence of Jesus' interpretation: "The seed is the Word of God" (v 11).

This seems obvious. But in that moment, the Spirit was convicting me about how much I had sown in the name of Christianity or The Salvation Army that was *not* the Word of God. And, conversely, how little of the Word I had actually sown.

The Wrong Seed

The term "Word of God" is twofold. It refers to Scripture, but it also refers to Jesus himself. He is "the Word" (see John 1:1-14), the one to whom all the Scriptures testify as the source of life (see John 5:38). As I examined my life and ministry I realized that a lot of the seeds I was sowing were not the kind that bring a spiritual harvest. Here are a few of the seeds that I was attempting to scatter:

Seeds of Healthy Life Values

Often when I thought I was sowing spiritual seed I was actually sowing this imitation version. The promise of this seed is that by changing outward behaviour—stopping drinking, getting a job, practising forgiveness, serving the poor—your life will become happier. At first, the result resembles spiritual fruit. But as it ripens, it becomes ugly, twisting into exhaustion and despair, duty and pride. Because this fruit is only created by human effort, it is not easily multiplied and there is no salvation or freedom in it.

Seeds of the Welcoming Church Community

Our congregation places a high value on loving relationships and enjoys a warm, friendly community life together. But I've noticed over time that when we've invited people to join us it has often been an invitation to a community of warm friendships—not to Jesus. The horrifying potential of this seed is that it produces fruit that looks like Christianity but is actually only conformity to the church culture. Many people could participate in the life of our church and never be spiritually renewed by a relationship with Jesus.

Seeds of Postmodern Ministry

In my early days as a church planter, I was influenced by the emergent stream of thinking that suggests young people are checking out of church because the modern church culture clashes with their postmodern values, making church seem irrelevant. As a result, I spent time sowing the seed of “postmodern ministry,” which suggested that the church could grow just by altering certain cultural particulars. The problem with this seed is that it only works if it's scattered along with a generous helping of the Word. Otherwise the plant that sprouts looks just the same as the “welcoming church community” seed, only with more candles, body piercings and indie rockers.

Seeds of The Salvation Army's Good Works

As an officer, I was scattering this seed through public relations in my community. The sprout is an appreciation for our work with the poor, partnerships with other agencies and general support for the Army's local ministry. The mature fruit of this seed is usually money and maybe the donation of volunteer time. These are all good things,

but still not what the parable instructs.

If I'm honest, the reason that I chose to scatter these other seeds over the Word of God is because I had a sense that they were somehow more acceptable to people. Jesus is provoking, the Bible offensive, but everyone wants a warm group of friends. Everyone can affirm good works and a positive lifestyle. But what I have also discovered is that people are very willing to hear about Jesus. And as I have scattered spiritual seed on the instruction of the Spirit, much more of it has been readily received and taken root than I would have imagined.

How Are You Sowing?

For most of us, the best evangelism technique is one that has not always been in vogue in evangelical circles. Simply put: Be normal. Just live your regular life as a friendly, loving, Spirit-filled person. Show hospitality to your neighbours, bring extra coffee to the hockey arena for the other parents, have people on your block over for dinner, mow their lawn when they're on vacation, ask the single mom down the street if you can pick up any groceries while you're at the store, and take every opportunity to branch out into new relationships with unbelievers. If you live as a

*Our job is to be patient and persistent,
sowing the Word and waiting for God to
produce fruit in people's lives*

person authentically led by the Spirit and genuinely love people, then it becomes a natural overflow of your personality to share Jesus.

There are two challenges with this normal strategy. The first is that, for most of us, our real friends are all Christians and our non-Christian friends (if we have any) are actually projects. We don't offer ourselves to them with the same candor and vulnerability that we might with Christians because we are constantly trying to witness to them. We're always trying to find artificial ways to slip a Bible verse into the conversation or manipulate them into coming out to church for a special weekend. This breeds suspicion. When we do talk about Jesus, they wonder whether what we're saying is true or just something we're trying to sell them.

The second challenge is that, to sow the seed, we actually have to possess it

ourselves. Often our neglect of Scripture or the fact that we frequently push Jesus into the periphery of our lives makes us nervous about sharing with our friends. When this happens, we are not experiencing the fruit of the Spirit. Instead of joy, we are full of depression. Instead of love, we manifest anger and resentment. Instead of peace, we are constantly stressed out. On the other hand, if we are genuinely transformed people—in love with Jesus and through whom the Spirit speaks truth, love and encouragement—then normal for us will look like Jesus.

“There has to be more to this plan,” you say. “What about the five steps to salvation? The four spiritual laws? Won't there be questions and loose ends?” Yes, there will. But God has not left the responsibility for the salvation of the world on our shoulders. He has given us the role of witnesses to point to him, but all the saving work is done by Jesus. Our job is to be patient and persistent, sowing the Word and waiting for God to produce fruit in people's lives.

A Rich Harvest

It's spring and the lawn outside my window is thick and green. Yes, we've picked a few weeds, filled a few patches and sowed a few more seeds, but my prayers over those seeds last autumn have come to fruition. That mass of muddy earth is now a carpet of living green.

Tom and his wife are relaxing on the porch. They wave and we meander over for a chat. The seeds in Tom's life have shot up dramatically since that autumn evening. In October he got involved in a Life Transformation Group (LTG), reading Scripture on a weekly basis.

His family started coming to church, his wife joined an LTG and, in November, she made a faith commitment to Christ. Their eldest daughter loves going to youth group and their four-year-old has memorized the worship songs we sing at “big church.” Over the winter this family hosted the Alpha course in their home, where three others made first-time commitments to Christ.

Tom has re-committed himself to following Jesus and his home now serves as a hub of hospitality. We pray that he and his family will mature into disciples of God, so that in their circles of influence more Kingdom seed will fall and we will have the joy of watching that harvest together. ☺



Embracing Diversity

Salvationists gather to discuss multicultural ministry

by Captain Kim Walter, Editor, Edge for Kids

What is like all others, like some others and like none other? We are! This question was the focus of the lunchtime discussion during Together, the Ontario Central-East Division's multicultural conference in April. It captures the theme of the weekend—embracing diversity, journeying together in Christ.

The conference's keynote address was given by Michael Casasola, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who shared with conference delegates the plight of millions of refugees living in substandard conditions and dangerous situations in refugee camps in many parts of the world.

The Salvation Army's role in helping people worldwide was addressed in workshops on refugees and human trafficking. Presenters shared the conditions, unimaginable to most North Americans, in which people around the world live. Refugees come to Canada seeking more than just a better life. They leave their own countries because they belong to a threatened racial, religious, social or political group. With no government protection, they are in danger if they remain at home. They come to countries like Canada to preserve their lives and seek freedom for their families.

The Salvation Army assists refugees with basic needs such as housing, employment and education. It provides free language classes, counselling and chaplaincy, and also helps prepare them for the process that will hopefully allow them to live in Canada permanently.

More than 2,500 people are brought into Canada each year through human trafficking. Victims are typically young girls between 14 and 15, although men, women and boys are targeted as well. The Salvation Army has been involved in rescuing these victims for more than 100 years. Workers address their physical needs for shelter, safety and often health care, as they help them to move along the path to regain their self-esteem and learn independent living skills.

Other parts of the conference focused on ways that congregations can reach out. Embracing those who are different from ourselves is not easy and can even be intimidating. Delegates were reminded that, in a multicultural setting, the person next to us may not look the same, talk the same or do things in the same way, but each

unique individual is part of the body of Christ, which includes the local congregation. Just as all have unique backgrounds and abilities, each can strengthen the church when their gifts are encouraged to flourish.

Individuals from a broad cross-section of corps and social ministries participated in this weekend event. Major Donna Millar has seen encouraging changes in her five years as divisional multicultural ministries secretary. "The look of our corps is changing," she says. "There are more culturally diverse lay workers and leaders in our congregations. More and more, I see diverse people willing to be led and taught by each other."

Above: Delegates enjoyed the Afro-Brazilian dance and martial arts presentation by Axé Capoeira; below: Organizers were thrilled with the response to the Together conference



Warm Welcome at Erin Mills

Four members of Erin Mills Corps, Mississauga, Ont., know what it's like to come to Canada and find acceptance at The Salvation Army. In each case, what impressed them was the warm and sincere way they were greeted and made to feel welcome. Each arrived in Canada under different circumstances, yet they shared the experience of being touched by God's love as they sought the fellowship of a new church home. In addition, the Army has provided each one with a place to participate in Christian ministry.

Vianney Fernandes, who had a successful business in Dubai, now runs the community and family services office at Erin Mills and organizes its successful Christmas kettle campaign.

Margaret Odutayo, originally from Nigeria, is an active member of community care ministries (CCM). Her children have also eagerly joined in youth discipleship and music programs.

Efren Palma, Guatemalan by birth, is now a Canadian citizen and a Salvation Army soldier. He, too, is a CCM member and is always available to lend a hand with any task required around the corps.

Edelyn Musara, a recent addition to the corps, grew up in The Salvation Army in Zimbabwe. She has found her place in ministry through the songsters as well as teaching Sunday school. She is returning to Zimbabwe this summer to be married and will sponsor her new husband to join her in Canada.

**Vianney Fernandes,
Efren Palma,
Margaret Odutayo
and Edelyn Musara
find acceptance at
Erin Mills Corps**



Conversation Class at Agincourt

Major James Anderson knows what it's like to live as a foreigner. He and his wife, Darlene, left Canada in 1995 to minister in Russia. Since their return, he has had a passion for intercultural ministry and the Toronto suburb of Agincourt is the perfect setting. Visible minorities make up more than two-thirds of the population in the neighbourhood surrounding Agincourt Community Church, where they are the corps officers.

Multicultural ministries have been part of the fabric of the corps for many years. In September 2007, because there was no existing lay intercultural ministry position, they wrote a covenant, recognizing the leadership of Thomas Yoo in Agincourt's intercultural ministry. The intercultural ministry co-ordinator promotes the intercultural ministry approach, helps to educate the corps members to value newcomers and provides service opportunities that make all feel valued. Both he and Major Anderson are excited

at the doors it has opened into the community.

Each week, between 30 and 70 people attend English conversation classes in the building. Special occasions such as Chinese New Year and Intercultural Sunday are some of the highlights of what they describe as an international community. Every ministry at the corps is enriched by the diversity of its participants.

Diversity of language is also counted as a strength. Most people who walk through the doors can find at least one other person with whom they can speak in their native language. Corps leaders consider this part of their Kingdom approach to ministry—Kingdom people communicating the Kingdom gospel.

**Mjr James Anderson
and Thomas Yoo
work hard to promote
intercultural ministry**



Community Cooking in Halifax

One of the hallmark ministries of The Salvation Army is providing the needy with the means to prepare Christmas dinner. However, for recent immigrants from non-European backgrounds, what to do with a turkey or ham, stuffing, potatoes and vegetables can be puzzling. Tina Fluke of Cornerstone Community Centre, a ministry of Spryfield Community Church, Halifax, realized that her clients, while grateful for the assistance, did not all know what to do with the provisions they were given.

In response, she and her father spent Christmas Day with a family who had recently arrived from Africa. They prepared the traditional Canadian meal, while the African family prepared some African dishes, sharing other holiday customs as well.

Addressing this need on a larger scale, the New Country Café ministry at Cornerstone helps newcomers to Canada learn about how to live as part of North American society. Participants are introduced to North American food and its preparation, as well as nutrition and budgeting.

They meet at the centre and plan a menu, using food items available in a local grocery store. The group travels to the store, shops for the items required and returns to the centre to prepare the meal. At each step in the process, there is the opportunity to practise language skills and interact with others in similar circumstances. 

**Tina Fluke responds
to the needs of
newcomers to Canada**



Dangerous Games

The run-up to the Olympics has been clouded by protests over China's treatment of Tibet. Should Christians care?

In this Salvationist series, Captain Amy Reardon, Christian Education Director, Northwest Division, U.S.A. Western Territory, and Dr James Read, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Winnipeg, dialogue about moral and ethical issues.

Dear Amy,

What do you make of the “Free Tibet” protests that have interrupted the Olympic torch run this year? They certainly caught my attention. I’m sure you took note, too. But were they a good tactic in the service of a good cause?

As a Salvationist, I’m proud of our forebears who were thrown in jail for being a public nuisance. It seems I’ve not caught the same spirit myself, however. When I was a teaching assistant at UCLA we went on strike. That’s the only time I’ve carried a placard in a demonstration. I’m not sure this should be a point of pride. I think it may be cowardice.

Dick Pound is a Canadian whose name you may recognize as the former head of the anti-doping squad for the Olympics. He’s gone on record as opposing the protestors’ call for governments to boycott the Beijing Games because that would be unfair to the athletes. Maybe so, but it would be naive to think that the Olympic Games are about pure sport and athleticism. They’re political from the get-go. And don’t forget that they are also big business. Huge dollars are on the line for corporate sponsors and for countries like the U.S.A. and Canada that trade with China.

So I think the protesters are right to get us asking whether tolerating the oppression of a few million Tibetans is too high a price to pay for “fairness” to young athletes and black ink on the corporate bottom line. But I’m so ignorant as to what really is at stake, Amy.

It seems to me that we should be trying to find answers to these questions. I absolutely believe that The Salvation Army and Salvationists should be more



Photo: CP Photo/Aijaz Rahi

Handcuffed Tibetan exiles wear Olympic symbol circles during a protest in Bangalore, India

outspoken about human rights and social justice. People sometimes counter this with the claim that the Army is (or should be) apolitical. This is simply wrong. We never have been. Never could be. Being *non-partisan* is our policy, and that has proven its wisdom over time. But politics is bigger than party politics. Almost every human being is part of a structured community that has rules for the use and distribution of power. Since that’s the core meaning of politics, we can’t really be apolitical.

What’s more, as Christians we can’t simply yawn when the talk turns to human rights. The right to food, clothing, shelter, personal security (all aspects of a right to life); the right to religious freedom; the right to an opportunity to develop one’s God-given talents—these are values that have Christian roots. If we ignore them, I think Jesus’ word of correction should reverberate in our heads: “You have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.... You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:23-24).

The tough part for me is when we get down to specifics. I want to take the *New International Version’s* translation of Galatians 4:18 to heart: “It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good.” Discerning the good purpose about which to be passionate is essential, but it’s also

tough work.

It’s a no-brainer to say that oppression and cultural genocide are wrong, but do those terms fit what the Olympic protesters are campaigning about? What is the situation in Tibet and China? What made the Dalai Lama go into self-imposed exile? What is the Dalai Lama himself advocating? Why should Christians support a non-Christian culture?

I hope you have some wisdom you can pass along, Amy. Either about discernment in general or about the specific issues of Tibet and the Beijing Games.

Jim

P.S. What’s your favorite Olympic event? Despite the shame that Ben Johnson brought on the Canadian team back in 1988, track—especially the men’s 100-metre race—still excites me.

Dear Jim,

What is the Christian response to the fact that the Olympics are being held in Beijing this summer? That seems to be the main issue. You’ve raised

other critical questions, but I'll focus on this one, because the answers to the others could fill a book.

The controversy over Beijing arose afresh because of the March 2008 violence in Tibet, where a number of protestors were killed. (The Chinese government says 22 were killed; the Tibetan monks claim it was many more.) The exact aim of the protests is somewhat unclear. Many want complete political liberation for Tibet. Others, such as the Dalai Lama, are only requesting cultural autonomy, which would include religious freedom.

I am convinced that Christians should defend free access to all religions, because only complete religious freedom inspires genuine faith. True commitments to Christ would be rare if Christianity were the only option the government allowed. Because we believe in our God-given free will, we should promote each human's right to adhere to their chosen faith. Of course, we believe that only Christ is the way, the truth and the life, but we endeavour to persuade—not coerce—others to believe the same.

Fingers have long been pointed at China for its human rights record. Even beyond the Himalayan region it governs, China's trade and foreign policy has had a destructive effect. For example, China has supplied arms to Sudan, which have enabled that country's militia to persecute the people of Darfur. Some assumed that frustration with China over this issue would result in protests of the Olympics. If there were such protests, they did not receive international attention. However, according to the *New York Times* (March

8, 2008), China did put pressure on the Sudanese government to reduce its violence. Hypocritical, don't you think? Why not pull the log out of their own eye first?

Other human rights abuses may be closer to our hearts, such as the persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters in China. The Voice of the Martyrs' website (www.persecution.com) reports many Christians in China are imprisoned merely for expressing their faith. In July 2007, Chinese pastor Li Mei and nine

Only complete religious freedom inspires genuine faith

other church leaders were jailed for leading worship and showing the *Jesus* film. Li Mei was tortured and beaten so badly that she required a hysterectomy. Pastor Wang Weiliang and seven of his church leaders were arrested in 2006 and remain in prison. Yet Christians of the free world remain tight-lipped. Why don't we protest these abuses? Is it because they are so far away and we are so safe? Is it because we in the Christian Church have glorified persecution and view these victims as hyper-godly for their suffering?

Jim, you mentioned that Salvationists should be politically active, protesting injustice as they find it. I agree. But when it comes to advocating for people persecuted for their faith, I am ashamed of our track

record. Why have we not clamoured for the freedom of Christians in China? Why has it taken a group of Tibetan monks to get us to think about these things? We now wonder if we should take a stand against the Olympics, but my question is: What took us so long? Micah 6:8 commands us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [our] God." Justice doesn't just occur. It requires action on the part of those who are capable. Can Li Mei protest for herself? She cannot. Can I write to my elected representative, draft a petition, write a letter to the editor of my newspaper or stage a demonstration? I can.

The Chinese government has a long rap sheet. Their denial of basic human rights is a matter of historical fact. Because of this, I see our current concern as hypocritical. When China was first announced as Olympic host we scratched our heads and said, "Really?" We didn't jump up and down about the injustices that government perpetuates. In contrast to our lukewarm response, I found this impassioned reaction on BBC's *Sports Talk*: "As a Tibetan exile that was kicked out of my country nearly 50 years ago, I feel utterly devastated by this award. I cannot believe that the International Olympic Committee can reward nepotism, brutality and savage occupation. The IOC has once again proved that human rights are only a side issue when it comes to a multi-billion dollar business venture. Will humanity ever come to our aid?"

Unfortunately, our concern for human rights is a dollar short and a day late. I don't think a boycott of the Olympics can have any impact at this point. But here's a lesson learned—when you see injustice, fight it. Don't sit on your hands. In the name of Christ, fight! We are the privileged ones—the people who live in free lands and who have a voice. There are many ways we can express our opinions and work for change. If we don't do it, who will?

Amy

P.S. I love gymnastics! I must confess, sometimes I am so moved by the beauty of the gymnasts' movements that I get a bit weepy and praise God for the wonder of his creation. S

Tibetan activists are confronted by police during a "Free Tibet" protest in Jakarta, Indonesia

Photo: CP Photo/Dita Alangkara



Getting to “Yes”

An encounter in a café taught me that sharing my faith is more like a negotiation than an argument

by Glenn B. Smith, Executive Director, Christian Direction, Montreal



It started as an informal chat between two friends on a quiet Sunday afternoon. A colleague and I were teaching at a seminary and decided to take a break at a local café.

The waiter was in a jovial mood. My friend and I exchanged pleasantries with him for the full two hours that we sat in his section. He kept ribbing us about settling the \$2.50 bill before we tried to slip out!

Finally we paid and, as he handed me the change, he asked, “What do you guys do, anyway?” We explained that we were both Bible professors.

“Hey, that’s neat. I love to debate,” he exclaimed. “Have you ever debated whether Judas Iscariot should have been canonized?” (I must admit that my Protestant mind had never thought much about that one.) “Or how about whether Mary really had the choice about carrying the Baby Jesus to term?” (Not one of my top 10, quite frankly.)

“It seems to me that you are someone who really wants to understand the truth,” I remarked. “Where are you in your spiritual journey?”

“Oh, no,” he replied. “You can’t ask that! That just confuses the issues. You get into too many opinions and people

get offended. I just like to debate.”

“But what about the historical aspect of these issues?” my colleague asked.

“No, that’s not important. You and I, we come at things differently. It’s not what happened that counts. It’s the story ... you can’t forget the story.”

I could see that he was becoming nervous about his other customers. The section was slowly filling up.

I picked up the bill. “Interesting,” I smiled. “You didn’t treat the bill that way. You wanted me to pay exactly \$2.50, not whatever I wanted to pay. No fiction here!”

He looked at me, chagrined. “I never thought about it that way before ...”

Is Truth Relative?

In our increasingly diverse society, how can God’s people explain his truth to others? The very orientation to truth, history and the meaning of life is in a state of constant flux. People today seem to think that nothing can be known for certain, that history is devoid of direction and that all truth is relative. How do we handle this dilemma when sharing the gospel?

A study called the Harvard Negotiation Project has put forth several principles for effective international peace negotia-

tions and conflict resolution in the corporate world. A book called *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* by Roger Fisher and William Ury outlines four of these key principles. The same ideas are easily applied in communicating the truth of our faith. I think they can help people say “yes” to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Make a distinction between the person and the ideas they promote. It would have been easy to mock our waiter that day in the café or to say, “Your ideas are wrong. You can’t believe that.” Sharing the good news means that we must make the distinction between the person God created and what they believe. The tone of voice and the words we choose are a good indication that we are making the distinction.

2. Make it easy for people to change their opinions on subjects. Nobody likes to admit that they are wrong or that what they have believed for years is no longer valid. We may win the “argument” that certain truths are essential to life, but so polarize the person that there will be no further dialogue about the good news. In today’s climate of evangelism we need to slow down and make sure that we understand the person’s point of view.

3. Don’t take a combative posture as you dialogue with people. This principle is the logical extension of the first two ideas. As we articulate God’s truth without compromise, it is not necessary to say, “I’m right and you’re wrong.” Rather, we can create a climate of uncertainty in the other person’s foundation for their ideas. We need to make Christianity attractive as an alternative way to live and to think in a very uncertain world.

4. Tell your own story as an example of someone who’s changed his mind. Your testimony of a changed life is a marvelous tool to help the other person see that Christianity is relevant. And no matter what their beliefs, they cannot argue with your personal story.

Today’s world has abandoned the story that Jesus offers life for all. But God has sent you and me into the world to offer God’s “yes.” By the power of the Spirit of Jesus we have an unprecedented opportunity to live and share this good news. **S**

Glenn Smith lives with his wife, Sandra, and their children in Chomedey, Quebec, where they are part of a Christian community development project in the east end of Montreal.

When God Says Go

He continually reminds me that officership was his idea

by Major Jamie Braund, Corps Officer, Cariboo Hill Temple, Burnaby, B.C.



When I first became a Salvation Army officer, I had a good friend who, when he saw me going off to do something, would ask, “Is that a ‘have to’ or a ‘want to?’” The idea was that certain things an officer would *want* to do and some he would *have* to do. Over the past 20 years, I’ve thought of that question many times—and I still say, “I like my job!”

Now before I go any further, I realize I’m going to get into trouble with some people

by comparing Salvation Army officership to a job. They’ll say it’s a calling, a 24/7 lifestyle or a lifelong commitment. That may be true, but here’s the deal—I don’t have the letter S embroidered on my pyjamas; in the morning I get up and go to work like everyone else; and the definition of who I am as a person is more than just an officer.

In case you’re wondering, I did have a “real” job once. After high school, I studied chemistry and math at university, then got a job in a science lab—complete with white

confirmation and encouragement. So, here I am 20 years later, still an officer and *I like my job!*

I like the places that I’ve been. God has been very gracious in where he’s sent me. My appointments have been the best. I hope, though, that I’d feel that way about wherever I’d been. I’m a better person because of the people at Agincourt Community Church, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Ont., Hamilton Citadel, Bermuda, and Cariboo Hill Temple, Burnaby, B.C.

I like the opportunities that God




and equip me for anything he wants me to do. It’s exciting to witness the power of God at work. And he continually reminds me that officership was his idea.

To paraphrase Romans 8:31, “If God is for me, who can be against me?” Actually, numerous people have been. Let’s be honest—life with people is not always easy. That’s the way it is everywhere. I’ll admit that I have friends who haven’t continued as officers, and some of them would say that they were mistreated and couldn’t take it anymore. Is that a reflection on The Salvation Army? Or

a reflection on people who shouldn’t have been able to treat others the way they did?

Salvation Army officers ought to be treated with respect and honesty. In Hebrews 13:17 we read, “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority ... so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” If you’re worried we’ll take advantage of that, remember we have to live according to the biblical principle that “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded” (see Luke 12:48).

I like being able to invest my life in ministry for God through the Movement called The Salvation Army. It truly is inspired of God and an instrument that he uses for reconciliation in this world. I believe that he’ll keep on calling amazing people into ministry as Salvation Army officers. I hope they’ll listen. 

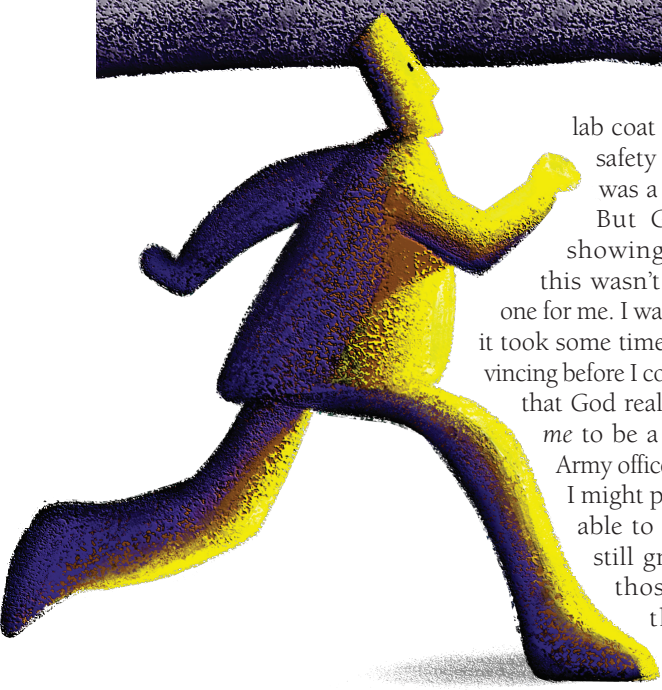
God will prepare me for anything he wants me to do

lab coat and black safety glasses. It was a good job. But God kept showing me that this wasn’t the right one for me. I was slow and it took some time and convincing before I could accept that God really wanted me to be a Salvation Army officer and that I might possibly be able to do it. I’m still grateful for those people that God used to bring

has given me. They’re greater than anything I ever could have found on my own. I believe God has called me to live out Ephesians 4:12—“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” That means that I’ve been incredibly privileged to witness the development of God-given gifts in his people. I couldn’t have asked for anything better.

I like the people that God provides for me to work with. Presently, I work alongside some of the most gifted, amazing people I’ve ever met.

I like how God continually shows me that he’ll prepare me



Peaceable Evangelism

In the first of a two-part interview, Rick Tobias, CEO of Yonge Street Mission, Toronto, explains why traditional evangelistic methods often drive more people from Christ than they attract

Rick Tobias is best known for his lifelong advocacy on behalf of low-income and marginalized people. In 1983, he became co-ordinator of Yonge Street Mission's Evergreen Centre, which he refocused to address needs of street youth in Toronto. His innovative work at Evergreen led to the invitation to become Yonge Street Mission's CEO, a position he has held since 1989. Sought after as a consultant and coach, Rick has spoken hundreds of times on Canadian poverty, urban ministry, youth at risk and strategies for community-wide change. Salvationist recently interviewed Rick on how Christians can share their faith effectively in a world that is increasingly hostile or indifferent to the gospel.

Why are people no longer attracted to the Church?

The evangelical church has blown its credibility as a moral and spiritual leader in society. People don't see us as spiritual; they see us as legalistic. They don't see us as righteous; they see us as hypocritical.

Of course, we don't help matters by going from scandal to scandal. People expect better from God's representatives. When the soccer or hockey coach molests a child, people are upset but they are not quite so surprised. Yet when the pastor or church leader molests a child, it's like

God himself is doing it. It provokes a crisis of faith.

What really annoys people is that Christians too often call them to a moral standard that they don't see us living by. What is worse, we don't even have enough humility to admit we can't always live by our own standard. They see us as self-righteous and say, "Get the log out of your own eye."

At Yonge Street Mission, an increasing number of older Christians are volunteering with us because they, too, have lost faith in the Church. They find a more meaningful relationship with Christ in service than they do in their traditional congregations. How can we expect to retain our youth and draw new people when our adults are deeply unsatisfied? There is something we are not delivering.

What are we missing? What are people searching for?

I believe that when people walk into a church they are looking for two things: they want to connect with God and they want to connect with people. The problem is when you look for connectedness you also look for safety. Because the church is no longer known as a safe place, it makes the entry threshold even higher. I want to be connected to God, but the church is not a safe enough place for me to go to get connected.

In order to do mass evangelism or door-to-door evangelism—the traditional methods—you have to be recognized as safe or at least neutral. If you go and knock on someone's door and they say, "Oh, that's Pastor Rick from down the road. We don't go to his church but we know he's OK," or if The Salvation Army shows up at your door and, although you don't know the person standing there, you trust the Red Shield—in each case there is a perception of safety.

Unfortunately, the Church as a symbol of the Christian community doesn't carry the same credibility. That's not to undermine the Church. It should be seen as a safe Christian symbol, but we have tarnished it. If there is a general diminishment of respect for the Church and its leaders, that means evangelism has to go

in another direction. Too often our style of evangelism offends the people that God has given us to care for. It confirms their caricature image of us and pushes them away instead of drawing them to Christ.

What makes the old style of evangelism so unappealing?

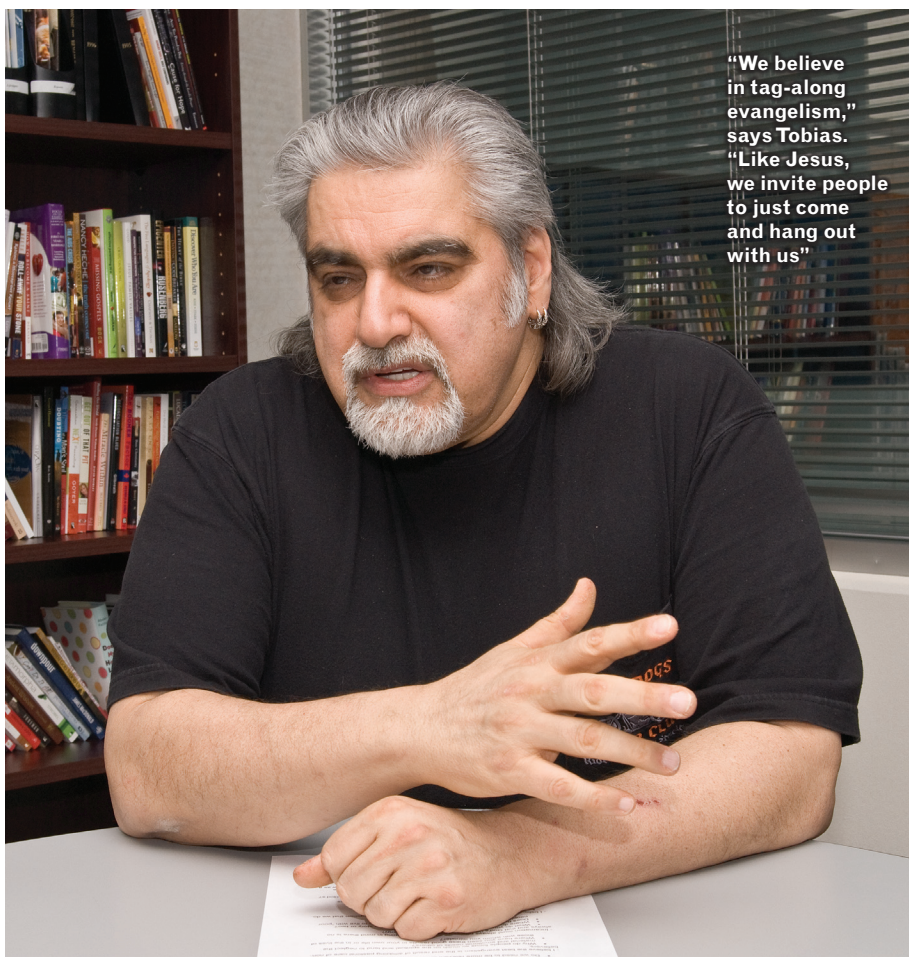
The problem with the old methods is that they are immediate and decision-oriented. They are mechanical and sometimes violent. At Yonge Street Mission, we use the terms "non-violent" or "peaceable" evangelism. James 3:18 says, "The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (NASB). Any time you pressure someone to make decisions they are not ready to make, that's an act of violence. At the mission, we work with people who have been violated all their lives, people who from childhood have been physically, sexually and emotionally abused. So you can't do anything evangelistically that has too much pressure—particularly in a community of survivors.

When I first started at Evergreen, we had the same evangelism paraphernalia as everyone else: *The Four Spiritual Laws*, *Steps to Peace With God*, and various other Bible tracts and spiritual surveys. We had all these tools but they were too mechanical: "If you go through this process you will be a Christian."

Any time you pressure someone to make decisions they are not ready to make, that's an act of violence



Rick Tobias with *Salvationist* managing editor Geoff Moulton



"We believe in tag-along evangelism," says Tobias. "Like Jesus, we invite people to just come and hang out with us"

There's nothing wrong with the traditional modes of evangelism in the right places. There was a time when they worked, and the people who founded them did so with incredibly honorable motives. But eventually the tools themselves became evangelism, instead of something that assisted you in evangelism. When you take great Christian truths and turn them into a formula, they lose their spiritual power. Evangelism then becomes nothing more than: How many people signed on the dotted line? Have they linked up with a local church? Perhaps we should be more concerned with things like: Can we see any sign of God's Spirit at work in them? Is there any evidence of conversion?

During my first months at Evergreen, decision cards would land on my desk every week. On Monday mornings I could measure the stacks of decision cards by the inch. I could go out to churches and say, "Last week at Evergreen 35 people made decisions for Jesus." But when we started to follow up, people would evaporate into the mist. Some supporters would pat us on the back and say, "What a good evangelical agency," but what we were doing was fraudulent.

It only took six months to realize that

we needed to do evangelism another way. We developed more relational models and cautioned staff not to be manipulative. We told them, "Don't you be the one who introduces Christ into the conversation. If you live by what you believe, other people will eventually raise the topic of faith."

Did it work? Did people respond to this less aggressive approach?

Yes, but we discovered a deeper problem. I thought if we told our workers to hold off on the "faith talk," we could be reasonably sure we weren't being manipulative in our evangelism. But even those measures weren't enough. What we discovered was that the young people in our setting didn't know how to say no—they didn't know how to keep themselves safe.

One of the pathologies of abuse survivors is that they often begin to proactively anticipate the wishes of the abuser in order to curry favour or deflect the abuse. We discovered this also had ramifications in terms of evangelism. Kids would come to us and say they wanted to "receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour" or be "born again" before any of our counsellors had even raised the subject. We wondered where they even learned that kind of language.

What they were doing was anticipating our rejection. If we had gone to them and said, "Do you want to be a Christian?" and they said no, they were afraid we would tune them out. So instead, they decided to come to us first and say, "I want to be a Christian," in hopes of putting themselves in our favour and securing our love.

We discovered that sometimes safe evangelism is actually pushing people away and saying, "You don't have to make this decision right now. It's not magic. God's not some great social worker in the sky. Even if you make the decision to trust Jesus you're still going to be homeless, you're still going to be an addict. So hold on." The other advantage of holding off was to help youth understand that we weren't going to treat them any differently if they made a spiritual commitment.

What we do when we treat new believers differently is invite people to prostitute themselves. We say, "If you do this, this and this ... (i.e. if you betray who you are), then you will receive special benefits." But the true blessing of being Christian is ultimately a relationship with Jesus Christ. If I become a Christian, there's no guarantee that I'll be housed and clothed and fed and all my needs will miraculously be taken care of. We know that! That's selling a second-rate gospel. The gospel is not about the blessings. It's about the relationship—and relationship is the blessing. You don't come to Christ for the benefits, you come because you are ready to walk with Jesus.

So what do you say to people?

Jesus never asked people to make the sort of decision that we call people to make. He never went up to people and said, "Would you like to receive me as your Lord and Saviour?" But on several occasions he said, "Come, follow me." At Yonge Street Mission, we believe in tag-along evangelism. Like Jesus, we invite people to just come and hang out with us. We let them know they are welcome and try to make them feel at home. What we've discovered is that if people tag along, they will eventually notice that Christians are different from the world. If they hang out long enough with people who love Jesus, they will make their own decisions about him in their own time, in much healthier ways. ☺

In next month's Salvationist, Rick describes his own conversion experience and how it set him on a new course.

Take 5

Discover a new outreach strategy that makes sharing Jesus easy

by Geoff Moulton, Managing Editor, Salvationist and Faith & Friends

For more than 10 years, *Faith & Friends* magazine has been changing lives through the power of personal testimony and God's Spirit. The publication is unique in the Salvation Army world in that it is intended primarily for non-Christians and those new to the Christian faith—although even seasoned Christians cannot resist reading its compelling stories.

Of course, the magazine itself is just a tool. It doesn't work unless Salvationists pass it along and develop a relationship with people. That's where you come in. If each Salvationist took five copies of *Faith & Friends* and shared the magazine with five people for five months, the result would be amazing.

That's the idea behind the Take 5 strategy, a simple way for your congregation to reach people with the love of God. By watching the Take 5 DVD, you'll learn how to use *Faith & Friends* more effectively, sharing it with people who need Christ in their lives. Not only that, you'll raise awareness of The Salvation Army's ministry and build bridges with your neighbours.

Consider the diagram below. In a corps or ministry unit where *Faith & Friends* merely sits on a table waiting to be picked up, it is not reaching its full potential. To truly reach its target audience, it needs to be distributed externally by Salvationists in a proactive way.

Don't get me wrong. We are thrilled when the magazine is used internally, such as in sermons or Bible study. And when the magazine is distributed more broadly to the general public—as in Christmas kettle campaigns, barbecues and door-to-door canvassing—it can have a great impact, too. But the Take 5 strategy helps move



Salvationists into the top right quadrant, showing them how easy it is to use *Faith & Friends* in their one-on-one relationships with non-Christians. This type of personal contact is what results in more people being brought into the Church and finding hope in Jesus.

Faith & Friends opens doors to spiritual conversations that are non-threatening and open-ended. By recounting personal stories, the magazine is grounded in real-life experience. It gives people the sensation that "Hey, my life can be different, too." It also contains cultural touchpoints such as movie and book reviews, hot topics, games and puzzles.

The Take 5 kit contains a DVD, worksheets and feedback forms. The DVD shares compelling interviews with corps officers and pastors who have used *Faith & Friends* in their ministries and seen extraordinary growth. Join them and discover the wonders that God can do through *Faith & Friends*.

Get It Now!

If you are interested in ordering the Take 5 DVD and kit to use with your congregation, please speak to your corps officer. Kits can be obtained by phoning Carol Lowes, marketing representative, at 416-422-6116 or e-mailing carol_lowes@can.salvationarmy.org.



Pull out *Faith & Friends* and pass it along

PROACTIVE OUTREACH		
	Passive	Active
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handed out on street • Left in doctor's office • Passed out on kettles • Mailed to newcomers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing with friends • Building relationships • Spiritual conversation • Invitation to church
Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting on table/display in ministry unit • Read by Salvationists • Used in personal devotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given out to corps members with bulletin • Used in corps programs • Used in preaching

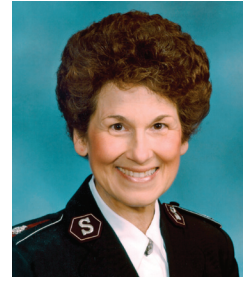
Five Steps of Take 5

- Take five minutes to read the current issue of *Faith & Friends*
- Identify five friends who need to hear about God's love
- Take five minutes to pray for those friends
- Pass along the magazine to those five friends with a word of encouragement
- Do this for five months and look for opportunities to minister

God's Cheerleader

As Christians, we are called to root for the winning team

Commissioner Marilyn D. Francis, Territorial President of Women's Ministries



*"Be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world."*

—Jesus Christ (John 16:33 KJV)

The signature of the believer is to be of good cheer. There has been a longing in my heart that every Christian would be a cheerleader for God, for good and for the gospel of our Lord. Being a cheerleader has been my number one job all my life. It makes

found the way forward.

*The team is in a huddle,
The captain nods his head.
They all got together
And this is what they said:
You've got to go, team,
Go, team, go!
You've got to fight, team,
Fight, team, fight!
You've got to win, team,
Win, team, win!
Go! Fight! Let's win!*

This was one of my favourite cheers when I was a high-school cheerleader. We were told that cheering for our team was essential if we wanted them to win, so we cheered them on with gusto! It didn't matter about the weather, the short skirts or the long hours of practice. We did it without thought for

Salvation Army is my team now. What an honour to be a cheerleader for the Army in today's world. It has been my greatest joy to do that throughout my ministry, especially cheering up those who needed encouragement along the way.

Finding Your Voice

What kind of cheerleader are you? Do you feel it necessary to "cheer" for our cause? Are you willing to go, fight and work in

Author Max Lucado said, "You are not a victim of your thoughts. You have a voice." God calls us to find our voice and lead by lending cheer to those in need. We might think we can't make a difference to the work of the Kingdom, but that is simply not true. God is depending on us. We cheer for the good, the beautiful and the true—for Jesus Christ our Lord. We are cheerleaders. We are his ambassadors. We are his cheerleading squad.


Cheering for Christ

God has chosen you for this cheerleading job. Think of the lost souls in need of his love. To paraphrase Romans 10:14, "How will they hear unless you cheer?"

As a teenage girl, I thought being chosen for the cheerleading squad in school was really something! Yet God chose us before the foundation of the world, and being part of his "squad" is for eternity. We can cheer loud and long because we know we're on the right side and that our team is going to win.

Cheer loud and long for him. Work long hours, study his Word and get the "routines" just right so the crowd will believe in God's message of love.

Sometimes we are called to cheer loud and long and sometimes we are called to cheer with no words at all. Yet still we must cheer so that the world will believe how great and wonderful our Lord is. And the more we spread our cheer, the more cheerful we become.

Try it! You'll enjoy being God's cheerleader. 

*God calls us
to find our voice
and lead by
lending cheer to
those in need*



me happy to cheer others on and lighten their journey.

A leader is defined as someone who gets other people to do what they want them to do. A Christian leader gets other people to do *what God wants them to do*. Cheer has often been the way this leader has

our own comfort. We did it because "the team" needed us. As we jumped, flipped, did our splits and screamed until our voices were hoarse, our enthusiasm was spurred on by the crowd's appreciation as well as the team's efforts.

That was years ago. The

order to achieve the win?

In Ephesians 6:19-20, Paul writes, "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Here is the underlying reason behind our mission—we are ambassadors for Heaven. As the King's representatives, we are to "cheer" for his work, his worth and his wonder.

Find your voice for God.



In anticipation of
Symposium 2008,
Salvationists across
the territory take
stock of how the
Army is fulfilling its
mission in their local
communities

Mapping a New Direction

Part Two

At the 2005 territorial symposium, five key issues were identified as being a priority for further action and discussion: 1. Salvation Army Identity; 2. Interacting with Current Culture; 3. Authority, Formal Relationships and Partners; 4. Discipleship and Spiritual Growth; and 5. Leadership in Organizational Change. In preparation for Symposium 2008, Salvationist is publishing comments from former delegates on how these issues are being worked out in their local situation. This month:

Interacting With Current Culture

Have there been improvements in how your congregation interacts with its social culture and the wider culture in general? Should the Army be doing more to reach out to the unchurched or even our own people?

Too often our view is limited to the people who walk through our doors on a Sunday morning. We need to develop an understanding that the Church is *outside* our buildings. We must be reaching out to the community in all that we do. While discipleship is vital for our own members, as we grow in our faith we need to be involved in sharing that knowledge with the community at large. Our focus cannot be inward—it *must* be outward. In Kelowna, all our ministries stem from this mindset. From our weekly ball-hockey games (where we connect with 130 children and youth each week plus their parents) to our fine-arts classes (providing lessons in guitar, drama, dance, brass and

drums to approximately 40 children and youth), our focus is the community. These programs reach beyond socio-economic status and allow us to share Christ with those beyond our doors. Each has a strong and visible tie to the corps, with teachers/leaders being part of our church family (the fine arts concerts are held during Sunday morning meetings).

Darryl Burry
Kelowna CC, B.C. Div

*“As The Salvation Army,
we need to be more in
tune with the needs of
those around us and
working toward meeting
those needs in order to
reach the unchurched”*

Our corps is located in a neighbourhood where we are surrounded by large groups of immigrants. In trying to understand their needs, we have aligned ourselves with a nearby public school, which resulted in our starting an English as a second language course. The first year, we ran the program ourselves—teaching and providing child-care for several mothers who were quite lonely and couldn’t

speak much English. This was a great success. This year, the school received government funding and now uses our building to run the program. We’ve also opened our facilities so the school can use them for extracurricular activities and asked the principal how we can be even more involved in a practical way. By partnering with the school we are becoming more visible in our community. As The Salvation Army, we need to be more in tune with the needs of those around us and working toward meeting those needs in order to reach the unchurched. The better we can be at listening and acting, the more people will see Christ in us.

Glenna Cryderman
Saskatoon Temple,
Prairie & Northern Ttys Div

More people are aware of The Salvation Army in St. Albert and why we do what we do. This has had a positive impact on the support we receive from the community both financially and through volunteers. That said, I still think the Army could do a better job of telling our story, both locally and territorially.

Captain Tiffany Marshall
Former CO, St. Albert Church and
Community Centre, Alta.,
Prairie & Northern Ttys Div

Through building our relationship with the community, we are being seen in a very positive light by social agencies and other groups. We continue to try to reach those who have nowhere to go. These include the ones that don’t seem to have a place in society—usually the mentally

challenged, single-parent families, kids with learning and behaviour problems. People know that if they send someone to us that they will be helped. A good example of this is our youth program, in which community agencies send us kids who need to be in a safe environment or who have difficulty in social settings. This has worked well and people seem to appreciate how we are reaching out in this and other ways.

Captain Jennifer Loner
Swift Current, Sask.,
Prairie & Northern Ttys Div

Since our arrival in this appointment we have encouraged partnering and team ministry with various other social-service agencies in order to break down barriers from perceived competition. Our family services office now works with several groups, including city food banks and other church congregations, to see that needs are being met. We work together for the greater good of all humanity and to share God's love to all whom we encounter. We have opened our building to host various organizing and planning meetings in a spirit of Christian love and co-operation. In addition, we offer Come Meet Your Neighbours breakfasts with no strings attached, as a means of reaching the unchurched and offering friendship to the community.

Captain Dora Keeping
Wyndfield CC,
Brantford, Ont. GL Div

In the past three years there have been improvements in how the Army in London interacts with its social culture. We have taken on a monthly feeding program through the Centre of Hope and have a team of volunteers who assist on

the feeding truck and with cooking the meals. There is still a need for people to reach out and share Christ's love with those who come, but hopefully this will happen in the future.

Karen Butler
London Citadel, Ont. GL Div

It is mostly our family services ministry that allows us to interact with the social culture. Fenelon Falls is the "poor sister" to the more affluent Bobcaygeon, a few kilometres up the road. As a result, our program deals with the more difficult cases in and around the area. We are working on ways for our corps members to interact with families who benefit from our social-services ministry, mostly through

the past two years we have been involved in a back-to-school ministry, whereby our people donate supplies to students returning to school each fall.

Captain Carson Decker
Sackville, N.S., Maritime Div

Our congregation has recognized the challenges of connecting with young people in particular. To that end, we have invested heavily in youth ministry over the past 10 years by employing full-time youth pastors who have been welcomed and integrated into our schools and the greater community. We also provide ministries designed to reach out to various age groups and other segments of the community. Through these programs we are making a deliberate attempt to reach the unchurched in our area.

Howard Bridger
Triton, N.L. W Div

In Bermuda, we are continuing to do a better job at ministering to our disadvantaged culture. We are also successfully interacting with those who are better off in society, including many business owners who come alongside to support

us financially and encourage their employees to volunteer for our programs. Many businesses mandate that their employees volunteer in the community. One insurance company manned two of our kettles last Christmas. Our previous divisional commander noted that, according to the 2000 Bermuda census, 14 percent of the population didn't attend church. As part of his vision, he held conversations with leaders from the grassroots up to discuss what we could do about targeting this group. This conversation needs to be ongoing.

Rosemary Phillips
North Street Citadel,
Hamilton, Bermuda Div

The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda



OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2

Salvationists continue to engage in conversation to discover God's design for a mission-driven Salvation Army. Watch for further details

our after-school and pre-school literacy programs. These are not just for the kids but also allow us to have contact with the parents. There is much more to be explored as we plan for future days and ongoing urban development.

Captain Ron Wickens
Former CO, Fenelon Falls, Ont. CE Div

We've made significant progress in interacting with our culture. Our corps is involved in a breakfast program at a junior high school in which we provide a nutritious morning meal three times a week, using the opportunity to connect with students and staff. In addition, for



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Changing the World— One Life at a Time

Participants in short-term missions receive far more than they give

by Major Keilah Toy, Corps Officer, Asian American Yerba Buena Corps, San Francisco, U.S.A. Western Territory

Jenny still recalls the hot day in Malawi. With her fellow workers, she was distributing maize to local villagers. As one old man began to walk away, she noticed that his bag had a big hole in it and the contents were spilling out on the dirt road. Initially she thought, *The maize is dirty. Leave it on the ground.* But the man immediately bent down and anxiously began scooping it back into his bag. Tears filled Jenny's eyes as she realized that we in North America throw away food every day, while this man and his family were content to eat dirty maize to stay alive.

* * * * *

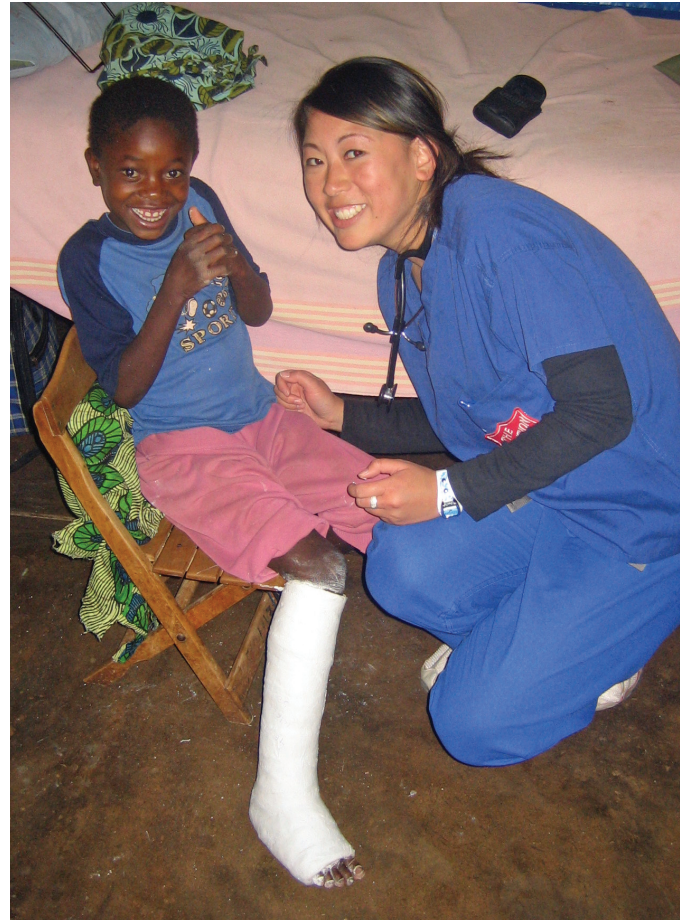
When Chi arrived in Hong Kong one month before her mission team, she discovered that plans for her to stay with a co-worker hadn't worked out. Stranded and with nowhere to go, she was taken in by the Ku family of Kam Tin Corps, the same place she was assigned to serve. The Ku family treated Chi like their own daughter and a deep bond soon developed. By the time she was to return home, many tears fell as both sides experienced an emotional farewell. Among Chi's many precious memories of ministry at Kam Tin Corps is six-year-old Hung, the youngest and most unruly child at vacation Bible school. After Chi spent a long time teaching, playing games and sharing Christ's love with

him, Hung gradually began to smile and, at the end of the summer, he accepted Christ as his Saviour. Since this initial visit, Chi has returned to Hong Kong twice more and plans to return again this summer. Her circle of lifelong friends widens as she meets more of God's international family.

* * * * *

Eliza remembers riding to church in an open, donkey-pulled wagon through the mountain roads of Longsan (Dragon Hill), China. In the aftermath of the recent rain, the villagers were afraid that Eliza and her companions would get their uniforms dirty from the deep mud, so they carried them off the cart and into the building. The church was already packed with 500 eager worshippers, most of whom had walked several kilometres to attend, some arriving the day before. The sanctuary could not accommodate everyone, so the overflow crowd of more than 100 settled outside the open windows, straining to listen to the service. During the three-hour meeting, the 108-member choir sang for an hour from memory, since they had no written music. The Holy Spirit descended in a mighty way and the entire congregation was moved to tears.

On an earlier trip to Hong Kong, Eliza met Ruby, a young student at the William Booth Secondary School where Eliza was teaching conversa-



Jenny with a young patient at Chikankata Hospital, Zambia

tional English. The two began exchanging letters and then e-mails, writing about their lives, sharing their struggles and growing closer through what has become a long-lasting friendship. Eliza watched as her young student worked at various jobs, including Hong Kong's Disneyland, and eventually travelled to university in England to study for her master's degree. But the proudest moment Eliza recalls is receiving an invitation from Ruby to witness her baptism.

Gaining More Than Giving

What would possess busy students and professionals to give up personal comforts and sacrifice their vacation time in order to put themselves in an unfamiliar environment, working harder than they would if they were at home? The mission field traditionally seems reserved for religious zealots or grey-haired seniors. Yet as Christians, each of us is called by God to be on a mission for him. This means getting out



Eliza (centre), with members of Longsan Church choir, China

of our armchairs and out the door in the name of Jesus. Whether it's through helping our next-door neighbour or travelling to a foreign country, we can become the hands of God, serving in the name of Christ.

Serving on short-term mission trips isn't merely about giving to others. Invariably, participants will tell you that they receive far more than they give. The experience teaches humility as they find themselves in an alien land where they are unfamiliar with the language and local customs. They learn to honour other cultures and come to realize that their lifestyle and methods are not the only way.

Visiting another country can also sharpen one's vision and heighten spiritual awareness. For many of us living in prosperity here in North America, witnessing abject poverty makes us realize that we must share from the wealth of resources God has given us. Mission trips also teach us to depend solely on God in the midst of cultural and sometimes spiritual isolation.

Sharing Christ's Love

Jenny has given five summers

to the mission field. Ask her to share her memories and she can tell you about running through lightning storms in Hawaii to get her kids to safety, or walking a young child to the outdoor bathroom in the middle of the night. While on various missions in the Pacific Islands and Africa, her teams have experienced crime, health issues, loss of transportation, power outages and more. Why does she continue to go back? "Because we love the people," she joyfully admits. "Love is the universal language."

Now a registered nurse, Jenny dreams of serving God through medical missions in Africa. "Here in Zambia," she comments, "I've learned that God is the ultimate healer. At home we're not allowed to pray for our patients unless they specifically ask. But we can pray for them here at The Salvation Army's Chikankata Hospital. It truly is built on the foundation of God. You see his presence through everyone here."

Given the choice to be endlessly pampered or selflessly serve others, which would you choose? The thought of someone tending to our every need

can sound very appealing. Yet if we consider long enough, we confess that serving others ultimately brings greater fulfillment. In overseas missions, this can happen through

leading children's programs, participating in construction projects, visiting homes, teaching English, serving at homeless shelters, spending time with seniors, and many other ministry opportunities. Exercising our God-given potential brings tremendous satisfaction, purpose and joy. Many lifelong friendships are forged and we humbly bear witness as many choose to turn their lives over to Christ. Through our participation, we become part of a global family in Christ, privileged to be part of God's Great Commission.

Why should any busy person sacrifice their free time, comfort and money to work in an unfamiliar land? The same reason Jesus sacrificed his own comfort, power and authority to come down to earth and die for our sins—so that individuals could be restored to a right relationship with God. It's all about changing the world—one life at a time. ☺

I'm Just One Person—What Can I Do?

There are many ways to serve your community and world. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Things to Do From Home:

- **Sponsor a child.** For the cost of two movie tickets per month, you can significantly improve a child's education, health and general well-being and open a door for spiritual influence. For more information about The Salvation Army's child sponsorship program, phone 416-422-6164 or e-mail child_sponsorship@can.salvationarmy.org.
- **Sponsor a country.** Ask your corps officer about how you can help support one of Canada and Bermuda's Partners in Mission territories or send money through the Army to other developing countries around the world.

If You Can Give:

- **One day**—Serve in an inner-city mission. There are opportunities for feeding the homeless, service projects, adopting a family for Christmas with food and gifts, volunteering to spend time driving seniors to shop for groceries, and much more.
- **One week or more**—In co-operation with your corps officer, help organize a corps mission team. Consider a close destination such as Mexico, which has plenty of needs and projects. Transportation is affordable, cost of living is inexpensive and project needs are endless.
- **A few months to a few years**—Consider short-term missions. The Salvation Army has needs and opportunities around the world. Contact your corps officer for more information.

Hot Summer Reading

Sick of secularism? Puzzled about politics? Envious of Elvis?
These books will challenge your perspective

Beyond Opinion

Living the Faith We Defend

Ravi Zacharias

Review by Major (Dr.) Beverley Smith

Medical Practitioner, The Scarborough Hospital, THQ Health Services

This book is a compilation of texts on Christian apologetics by writers associated with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM). Designed to help today's Christian answer questions from their friends and co-workers about their faith, it succeeds in doing that and accomplishes much more. It lays a solid groundwork of theology while at the same time proving the truth of Christianity to the average reader. And let's face it—Christians today, at least in the West, are influenced away from their faith by their culture more subtly than is sometimes appreciated.

As followers of Christ living in a secular world, we are often bombarded with questions from non-believers such as: "Why do you think your way is the only way? Are you going to try to convert me to your view? Can I really let a book such as the Bible determine my ethics? What about all the killing that takes place in God's name in the Old Testament? How could God let all the suffering in the world take place?" I've sometimes wondered how to gracefully and tactfully respond to such inquiries, and this book has assisted me in developing some wise answers. Even better, it helped teach me to look behind the questions to the person who asks them, applying God's Word through the Holy Spirit in a way that will help bring the questioner closer to Jesus.

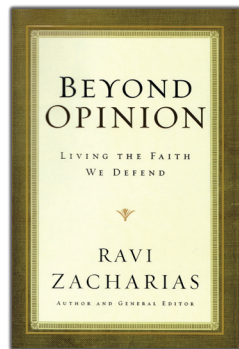
The book is divided into four main sections: Addressing the Difficult Questions, Addressing the Questions Behind the Questions, Internalizing the Questions and Answers, and Living Out the Answers. As it moves toward the end, it becomes a textbook of personal holiness, emphasizing that, after all, we are the only Bible that most of our friends will ever read.

I enjoyed this book because it fed my mind and my spirit. It is a noble attempt at providing a new and comprehensive approach to defending our Christian faith in our pluralistic, postmodern society. It also contains helpful tools for reaching out to spiritual seekers and the unchurched. As the various writers accomplish their task, they point out the weaknesses of other life philosophies and the emptiness of many eastern religions that appear so formidably influential to the boomer generation.

If there is any weakness, it's that the book is annoyingly inconsistent in style, depth and interest as individual authors bring their own life experiences and writing styles to their particular

chapter. Some sections are difficult to read and lack imagination, and I felt toward the end that I was being preached at rather than invited on a journey of discovery.

Not every idea espoused in the book resonated with me. But I must admit that, in the words of the author, it took the "two prongs of [my] heart and intellect ... and plugged them into the receptacle of God's power." To me, that is its best testimonial. Since *Beyond Opinion* has now made the Top 10 list of Christian non-fiction works, I am not the only one likely to commend it both as a good read and a helpful tool for Christians living in today's disparate and desperate world.



Jesus for President

Politics for Ordinary Radicals

Shane Claiborne and Cliff Haw

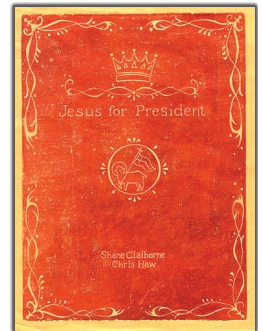
Review by Nathanael Homewood

Divisional Youth Ministries Co-ordinator, Ontario Great Lakes Division

Mixing the Church and state is like mixing ice cream with manure," says Tony Campolo. "It may not do much to the manure, but it sure messes up the ice cream." With that quote, authors Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw dispense with subtlety in their most recent offering, *Jesus for President*. Instead, they have a proclivity for the provocative, political and prophetic, all explored with a prankster's wit. "The Church has fallen in love with the state and this love affair is killing the Church's imagination," they declare, clearly delineating their dissatisfaction with the Church's adulterous affair with political power.

Claiborne and Haw expand on this thesis through a smorgasbord of stories, biblical narrative, accessible exegesis, fascinating anecdotes and a strong political manifesto. Known for their determination to live as closely as possible to their own interpretation of the Bible, they desperately want Christians ("ordinary radicals") to provide an imaginative and inspiring alternative to the secular "empire." In their attempt to provoke this Christian political imagination, they get dirty—separating the manure from the ice cream.

The book is divided into four chapters. The first two provide a narrative theology that applies "God's story," as told from Genesis to Revelation, to the current realities of life under the "American Empire," with its capitalism, militarism and nationalism. Using unique historical and cultural insights, they shed light on overt political themes found in Scripture and draw out an unambigu-



ous stance against capitalist political systems. In chapter three, the authors delve into the unholy wedding of the Empire and the Kingdom of God, providing a whirlwind history from the beginning of Christendom to the present-day American connection between Church and state. The final chapter provides practical stories of people who are living out the Christian political imagination through out-of-the-box thinking and unorthodox action. Throughout each chapter is an insistent call for the body of Christ to distinguish itself to the world and the Empire.

I fear this book reflects the philosophy of the ancient Essenes, who, instead of engaging the empire in which they lived, merely withdrew from it. The authors overstate the case for resistance because undoubtedly some people are called to work within the system, bringing Christ's transforming power to institutions. Yet the Church needs prophets like Claiborne and Haw to remind us that being in the world but not of the world is not an excuse to sell out, fit in or accept the status quo as inevitable.

Jesus for President is a must-read for anyone wrestling with issues of following Jesus in a culture that seems to have the answer for everything. When the Church begins to find guiding the course of history more alluring than following the crucified Christ, the potent mix of manure and ice cream has begun. Patriotic values of pride and strength can never triumph over spiritual virtues of humility, gentleness and sacrificial love. If, like the authors, you believe that Christians are called to imitate Jesus by taking up their crosses, you should check out this book that imparts deep theological reasoning and viable steps to do so. Then we will be able to preserve the distinctiveness of the Kingdom of God, which has always been the most important task for the Church.

Velvet Elvis

Repainting the Christian Church

Rob Bell

Review by Major Cathy Burrows

Corps Officer, Kelowna Community Church, B.C.

Rob Bell is the founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Michigan. An emerging-church thinker living in the postmodern culture, he is described as one who is more interested in making sure people live the Christian life than making sure their doctrine is exactly right. His way of thinking emphasizes mystery and doubt as the keys to a genuine Christian experience.

Bell begins this book by relating a




story of finding a velvet Elvis painting in his garage and how the artist signed the painting with a capital R and then a period. This causes him to wonder if the artist considered himself to be such a good painter that he did not need to sign his work with his full name. Bell goes on to say that it would be crazy for this painter to believe that he was that good, that his painting was the absolute best and that no other painting of Elvis ever needed to be done.

We understand that art continues to move on, finding new ways of expressing itself, never finishing its work. Bell likens this to the Christian faith by saying that, in a similar way, our journey never ends. He says that, as Christians, we need to be always moving forward—exploring, questioning and rethinking our faith traditions, changing to reach the culture that we live in. We need to be aware that this life is not the final painting.

I have watched Rob Bell's *Nooma* videos (see www.nooma.com) and found his book to be written in a similar conversational style. In *Velvet Elvis*, I quickly found myself challenged in my own thinking about what Christianity looks like. Thoughts came to mind such as: Am I the one who has it right? Do I spend more time defending my faith than inviting people to join me in exploring, questioning and discovering what the Bible says about knowing Jesus? Am I guilty of judging, pointing fingers and turning people away from the Christian faith rather than leading them to it?

Bell's book was a refreshing read. He admits that God never changes and neither do the central truths of Christianity. But he also states that, as our understanding develops, new revelations take place and new interpretations of Scripture are given. He reminds us that being theologically correct is not the same as being a Christian. Even John Wesley admitted that "there are things hidden so deeply in Scripture that future generations will always be drawing out new truths." Perhaps that's exactly what Bell is encouraging people to do.

I love what Bell says about it being impossible for a Christian to have a secular job. If you follow Jesus and are doing his ministry in the workplace, then it's no longer secular work but sacred work. Both you and God are there, and God created everything for our good. So, as Christians, we shouldn't confine ourselves to the small places where likeminded believers hang out with each other. We must take Christ into the real world and let his goodness be seen in our everyday lives.

Bell is good at thinking outside of the box and encourages others to do the same. He has his critics but he also says some good things. There were things he wrote that I would like to have been able to question him about to seek further clarification. But I have more important things to do, like getting out of this office and into the real world. That way I can spend more time with people exploring, rethinking and repainting what it means to live for Jesus. 

For more summer reading suggestions, visit SalvationArmy.ca/store

Growing God's Army

Territory Welcomes New Members



WINNIPEG—Six new soldiers are enrolled at Heritage Park. From left, RSTed Sawchuck; Ryan Daun; Susan Piller; Katie Pollett; Brian Dueck; Jonathan Slous; Mjr Julie Slous, CO; Kent Ritson

SYDNEY, N.S.—New members are welcomed at Sydney CC by Cpt Bill Preston and Mjr Velma Preston, former COs. Above,



Jerry Parsons and Thalia MacLellan, soldiers. Right, Gary Jones, Joan MacNeil-Jones, Stephen Wells, Anne-Marie Wolodka, Rose Flood, Shirley Corbett, adherents, CSM Ray Holland



KINGSTON, ONT.—New members are welcomed during 125th anniversary celebrations at Kingston Citadel. Front row, from left, Dominique Heasler and Nathan Davidson (adherents); Joe Coley (holding flag), who conducted the preparation classes; Joshua Edwards and Kevin Johnston (soldiers); Mjr Daisy Hatt, who reaffirmed her Officer's Covenant. Back row, Mjrs Catherine and Wilf Brown-Ratcliffe, COs

TRITON, N.L.—Cpts Chad and Kathleen Ingram, associate officers, are pictured with three new soldiers at Triton-Brighton Corps. From left, Alexandra Vincent, Tyson Verge, Meghan Fudge





ACTON, ONT.—Above, Mjrs Dean and Margaret Locke, COs, welcome new adherents. From left, Helen Pasanen, Arthur Pasanen, Harvey Hillier, Kate Hillier, Janet DeBlauw, Colleen Andrews. Right, new soldier Lilly Shewring displays her Soldier's Covenant



FORT FRANCES, ONT.—Angela Fraser, centre, is welcomed as the newest soldier during a visit by divisional leaders. Supporting Angela are Mjrs Susan and Dirk van Duinen, DC and DSP, Man. NW Ont. Div, and Cpts Angel and Marlene Sandoval-Silva, COs



CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.—Mjr Stephen Hibbs, CO, welcomes new members. From left, Nancy Wood and Jane Vicary, adherents; Elsie and Sterling Barrett, soldiers



YARMOUTH, N.S.—Four new soldiers display their Soldiers' Covenants. From left, Mjrs Larry and Velma Martin, DC and DDWM, Maritime Div; Shauna Campbell; Noreen McLaughlin; Robert McLaughlin; Elsie Murphy; Mjrs Priscilla and Willis Drover, former COs



SARNIA, ONT.—Back row, Retired CSM Stan Harding and Cpts Debbie and Dale Steward, former COs, welcome new members. Middle row, from left, Shelby Windis, Sharon Cousens, Bonnie Codling, John Codling, Peter Babin, Ronald Brett. Front row, from left, CSM Rita Price, Clarence Wood, Joyce Wood, Margaret Glowa, June Bell, John Bell, Shirley Babin, Margo Brett



CORNER BROOK, N.L.—New soldiers are pictured during 84th anniversary celebrations at Corner Brook Citadel. Front row, from left, Tasha Butler, Maddison Canning, Rita Thorne, Colleen Goulding. Middle row, from left, Dion Newman, Denna Newman, Lorie Follett, CSM Mona West. Back row, from left, Mjrs Valerie and Brian Wheeler, DCCMS and DSP, N.L. W Div; Mjrs Cassie and Robert Kean, COs



MISSISSAUGA, ONT.—Three new soldiers are welcomed at Erin Mills Corps by Cpts Tony and Patricia Kennedy, former COs. From left, Lauren Petesen, Regena Drysdale, Joan Collins

RECOGNITION

Sergeant-Majors to the Fore

SYDNEY, N.S.—New CSM Ray Holland receives his commission from Mjr Velma Preston and Cpt Bill Preston, former COs



QUESNEL, B.C.—New CSM Arlene Ruttan receives her commission from Cpts Curtis and Cindy Butler, DS and assistant DS—North, B.C. Div (left), supported by Cpts Jim and Debbie VanderHeyden, COs



ST. JEROME, QUE.—Louis and Chantal Dalphond are commissioned as CSM and ACSM respectively at Église Communautaire des Laurentides. Shown making the presentation are Lt-Cols Len and Bernice McNeilly, guest leaders, and Cpt Serge Descoeurs, CO



VICTORIA—New CSM Pat Humble is commissioned at High Point CC by Cpts Rosanne and Glen Fraser, former COs

GAZETTE

INTERNATIONAL

Designation change

International College for Officers (ICO): International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development

Promotions to commissioner

Cols M.Y. Emmanuel/T. Regina Chandra Bai (TC and TPWM, India Central Tty)

Extension of active service

Comrs Chun, Kwang-Pyo and Yoo, Sung-Ja (TC and TPWM, Korea Tty)

Appointments and promotions

Cols Jayapaul/Yesudayamma Devarapalli, TC and TPWM, India South-Western Tty; Col Robin Forsyth, international secretary for program resources, IHQ, with rank of commissioner; Col Shona Forsyth, IHQ chaplain and City of London liaison officer, with rank of commissioner; Lt-Cols Donald/Deborah Bell, CS and TSWM, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Tty; Lt-Cols Luis/Aida Castillo, OC and CPWM, Spain Command; Lt-Cols Samuel/Bimla Charan, TC and TPWM, India Eastern Tty, with rank of colonel; Lt-Cols William/Susan Harfoot, CS and TSWM, U.S.A. Western Tty; Lt-Cols Masilamony/T. Sathibama Ponniah, CS and TSWM, India South-Western Tty; Mjrs Bradford/Heidi Bailey, CS and TSWM, South America West Tty, with rank of Lt-colonel; Mjrs Ricardo/Sonia Bouzigues, CS and TSWM, South America East Tty, with rank of Lt-colonel; Mjr Janet Munn, associate principal, International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development, and secretary for spiritual life development, IHQ, with rank of Lt-colonel; Mjr Richard Munn, principal, International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development, and secretary for international ecumenical relations, IHQ, with rank of Lt-colonel

TERRITORIAL

Appointments

Mjr Everett Barrow, corps ministries secretary,

THQ corps ministries; Mjr Jim Champ, editor-in-chief and literary secretary, THQ editorial; Mjr Alison Cowling, assistant chief secretary, THQ territorial executive; Mjr Gloria Godfrey, DVSS (additional responsibility), Ont. N Div; Mjr Renee Hopkins, divisional statistician, Toronto (designation change) and chaplain, The Homestead, Toronto (additional responsibility), Ont. CE Div; Mjrs Martin Ketteringham/Carolyn Doonan, Mount Arrowsmith, Parksville, B.C. Div; Cpts Patrick/Valerie Lublink, fleet chaplains, Canadian Forces Base Halifax, Maritime Div; Cpt Lisa Randell, director of spiritual and religious care (designation change), The Honourable Ray and Helen Lawson Eventide Home, Niagara Falls, Ont. GL Div; Cpt Melissa Sunnuck, DSSS (additional responsibility), Ont. N Div; Cpt Karen Taylor, CFS director (designation change), Grande Prairie, Alta., Prairie & N.T. Div; Mjrs Floyd/Tracey Tidd, DC and DDWM, Ont. CE Div; Cpts Darren/Suzann Wiseman, communities ministries director and community ministries officer (additional responsibilities), Saint John, N.B., Maritime Div; Cpts Stephen/Leslie Wiseman, special assignment—house church model, Prairie & N.T. Div

Reinforcement personnel

Mjr Joan Canning, assistant national CS, U.S.A. National HQ; Cpts Tony/Patricia Kennedy, DC and DDWM, Russia Div, Eastern Europe Tty; Lt-Col Susan McMillan, under-secretary for Americas and Caribbean Zone, IHQ; Cpts David/April McNeilly, Coeur de Vey Corps, Paris, France Tty; Mjrs Ron/Donna Millar, training principal and education officer, CFOT, Caribbean Tty

International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development

Mjr Deborah Bungay (Jul 16-Sep 8)

Transfer from IHQ

Mjr Alison Cowling

Promotions to major

Cpt Penny Lang, Cpts Glenn/Jeananne Wirachowsky

Long service—30 years

Mjrs Lorne/Edith Jewer, Paul/Shirley Winsor

Returning to Canada

Cpt Margaret McLeod, Mjr Heather Randell, Greg/Dawne Warkentin

Retirements

Mjr Melva Elliott, out of Bonavista, N.L. Last appointment: divisional co-ordinator of hospital chaplaincy services, N.L. E Div; Mjr Elizabeth Granter, out of Labrador City, N.L. Last appointment: director of chaplaincy services, Glenbrook Lodge for Senior Citizens, St. John's, N.L. E Div; Mjrs Glen/Sandra Habbkirk, out of Glenmore Temple, Calgary. Last appointment: associate officer, Lethbridge CC, Alta., Prairie & N.T. Div (Mjr Sandra Habbkirk on short-term disability); Mjr Darlene Mollard, out of London Citadel, Ont. Last appointment: chaplain, Buchanan Lodge, New Westminster, B.C. Div; Mjr William Mollard, out of London Citadel, Ont. Last appointment: DSBA, B.C. Div; Mjr Harold Robbins, out of Bell Island, N.L. Last appointment, assistant secretary for personnel, U.S.A. Eastern Tty; Mjr Helen Robbins, out of Corner Brook Citadel, N.L. Last appointment: assistant to the secretary for personnel/immigration bureau director, U.S.A. Eastern Tty; Mjr Daphne Snow, out of Comfort Cove, N.L. Last appointment: director of family tracing services, Ont. CE Div; Mjrs Gary/Marion Venables, out of Calgary Citadel and Orangeville, Ont. Last appointment: London Citadel, Ont. GL Div; Mjrs Glenn/Jeananne Wirachowsky, out of Toronto Temple. Last appointment: Cornwall CC, Ont. CE Div

CALENDAR

Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis

Aug 10 Georgina CC, Jackson's Point, Ont.; Aug 18-19 Winnipeg Grace Hospital board reception and golf classic

General and Mrs. Bramwell H. Tillsley (Rtd)

Jul 6-13 holiness institute, New York City, U.S.A. Eastern Tty

Celebration of Faithful Service

BRIDGEWATER, N.S.—Salvationists and friends gathered in April to honour Robert Aulenback for his countless volunteer hours and years of dedicated service to the community. An active Salvationist for more than 65 years, Robert was presented with certificates of recognition from both provincial and federal levels of government, including the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia. Every Christmas, Robert mans the kettles eight hours a day, six days a week throughout the entire kettle campaign. He attends every corps activity and assists wherever needed. Cpts Stephen and Karen Holland, COs, are shown congratulating Robert on his achievements



New Leaders Appointed

Effective this month, the following officers have received new executive leadership appointments:

Majors Floyd and Tracey Tidd, divisional leaders, Ontario Central-East Div. They have served in various corps as well as divisional and territorial youth work. Floyd has served most recently as corps ministries secretary, THQ, while Tracey has been involved in children's and camping ministries and has been chaplain at Broadview Village, Toronto.



Major Everett Barrow, corps ministries secretary, THQ. With his wife, Violet, he has served in corps in Newfoundland and Ontario, most recently concluding 10 years at Scarborough Citadel, Toronto. He has also served as a DYS and on training college staff, but admits to having a passion for corps ministry.



Major Alison Cowling, assistant chief secretary, THQ. An officer of the Australia Eastern Tty, she has served in various corps, training and administrative appointments, including seven years in Papua New Guinea. Her most recent appointment has been under-secretary for the South Pacific and East Asia Zone, IHQ.



Major Jim Champ, editor-in-chief and literary secretary (see page 4)

TRIBUTE



GLOVERTOWN, N.L.—Born in 1914 in Newport, Bonavista Bay, N.L., **Philip James Collins** accepted Christ as a child. He transferred to Glovertown Corps in the early 1930s, where he later served as CSM for approximately 20 years. "Uncle Phil," as he was known, was a faithful and dedicated soldier until recent years when ill health prevented him from regular attendance. Well known for his Christian attitude and cheery disposition, he was eager to witness to the saving and keeping power of Jesus Christ. Philip is survived by sons Percy (Shirley), Merton (Ruth), Clyde (Lottie) and Barry (Daphne); daughters Edna (George) and Christine (Eric); 13 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and a large extended family.



CLARESHOLM, Alta.—Born in 1932 in Toronto, **Captain Joyce Goodridge** became an officer in 1971 with her husband, Gordon. Over 25 years, they served in Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia, ministering in appointments that included corps, family services, public relations and addictions services. They also served for a year as corps officers in Salmon Arm, B.C., following their retirement. In addition to Evelyn's love of sewing and gardening, she enjoyed travelling with her husband. She loved her family and was very proud of each of them. Music was an important part of her life and during her illness in recent years the words of familiar songs and hymns brought her great comfort. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit and strong faith in Christ, and her deepest wish that all would know him personally. Evelyn is survived by her husband of more than 51 years, Gordon; sons David (Wanda) and Paul (Wendy); daughters Sharon, Darlene (Frances) Van Diesen and Heather (Mike) Sweet; and 13 grandchildren.



CAMPBELLTON, N.L.—Born in 1923, **May Irene Hill** gave her heart to Christ as a young girl. Enrolled as a soldier, she served as a songster, YP treasurer and cradle roll sergeant, and was a faithful home league member for more than 60 years. Though her main concern was for her family and her corps activities, May loved helping others. She had the gift of hospitality and for many years enjoyed hosting cadets from the training college. Married for more than 59 years, she is lovingly remembered by her husband, Gordon; daughter, Pansy (Stewart) Canning; special nephew Jeff (Jackie and Nathan); special niece Diane (Nelson and Chase Snow), sisters Audrey (Ross) Pynn, Ruby (Clarence) Elliott and Major Lorraine (John) Gerard; brother, Fred (Gladys) Rideout, and many other relatives and friends.

Majors Cecil and Marjorie Maye are very grateful for all the cards, letters and other expressions of sympathy received following the unfortunate passing of their only son, Jason.

Salvationist is happy to print tributes as space permits. They must be received within three months of the promotion to Glory and include: community where the individual resided; conversion; corps involvement; Christian ministry and survivors. We reserve the right to edit submissions. Photos submitted will be returned. Digital photos in TIFF, Photoshop EPS or JPEG format with a minimum 300 ppi are acceptable. Send to: Editorial Department, 2 Overlea Blvd., Toronto ON M4H 1P4; e-mail: editorialist@can.salvationarmy.org; fax: 416-422-6120.

Army Publications Win Eight Church Press Awards

Salvationist and *Faith & Friends* magazines won a total of eight awards at the annual Canadian Church Press conference in May. *Salvationist* placed first in three categories: biblical interpretation, interview and colour photo-spread. *Faith & Friends* garnered five awards: second place in media review and service journalism, third place in biblical interpretation and original artwork, and honourable mention

for personal experience/first person account. The conference was held in Cambridge, Ont., and included representatives from 83 member publications, including mainline, Roman Catholic and evangelical churches. Awards were judged by a panel of accomplished journalists and academics. For further details and links to each of the winning articles, visit Salvationist.ca and search for CCP.



Living With MS

My struggle was not just with the disease, but with those who thought I had become the disease

by Captain Terri Wallace

Community and Family Services Officer, Haven of Hope, Regina

For years, I knew something was wrong. Doctors couldn't find the reason for the strange symptoms that kept appearing and disappearing. After months of tests, they stumbled upon a diagnosis, and then only because I had an episode while I was being tested. That diagnosis was multiple sclerosis (MS).

My world turned upside down. I went from being a capable person with a disease to the disease itself. People began to assume that most of the things I did on a regular basis I could no longer do. My life, it seemed, had to be made easier. So began both my struggle with accepting the disease and the struggle of others to accept that I could still do what God had called me to do.

The Right to Decide

In the early stages, many people made comments such as: "When will you be in a wheelchair?" "You can't do that anymore." "Now you have to be more careful." "You can minister in ways I can't because of the disease." "You're taking

this quite well."

What I didn't understand was how I had changed from having MS to *being* MS. My well-meaning friends were trying to shape me into their understanding of what the disease was supposed to be instead of who I was.

MS is a difficult disease to diagnosis, as it can affect different people in different ways. Unfortunately, everyone sees the worst-case scenario. Do the worst-case scenarios exist? Absolutely, but to look at me,

you'd never know I had MS.

Much of my struggle came from the fact that people could not see the disease or its effects on me. As part of my duties, I helped run a soup kitchen in Quesnel, B.C. Those who worked with me on a daily basis rarely commented about the MS, but I could see the

*God has put
a song in my
heart and given
me a sense of
his peace*

conflict in their eyes and the ways they began to "help" without being asked.

Decisions were made for me that I was not aware of and had no control over. Stress and frustration increased in my life, along with a major sense that I had lost my independence.

Together with my friends, family, colleagues, I struggled, laughed, cried and finally accepted the MS. And gradually the people around me realized that I had not changed. I was still me.

Over the months of frustration, one bright spot stands out. It occurred one day when a volunteer and I were going to clean out some freezers. A fellow officer came in and asked for another volunteer, as I could not help because of my MS. I quickly responded that I could indeed empty a freezer, and my frustration came through.

The officer threw up his arms and said, "New rule! Terri decides what she can and can't do."

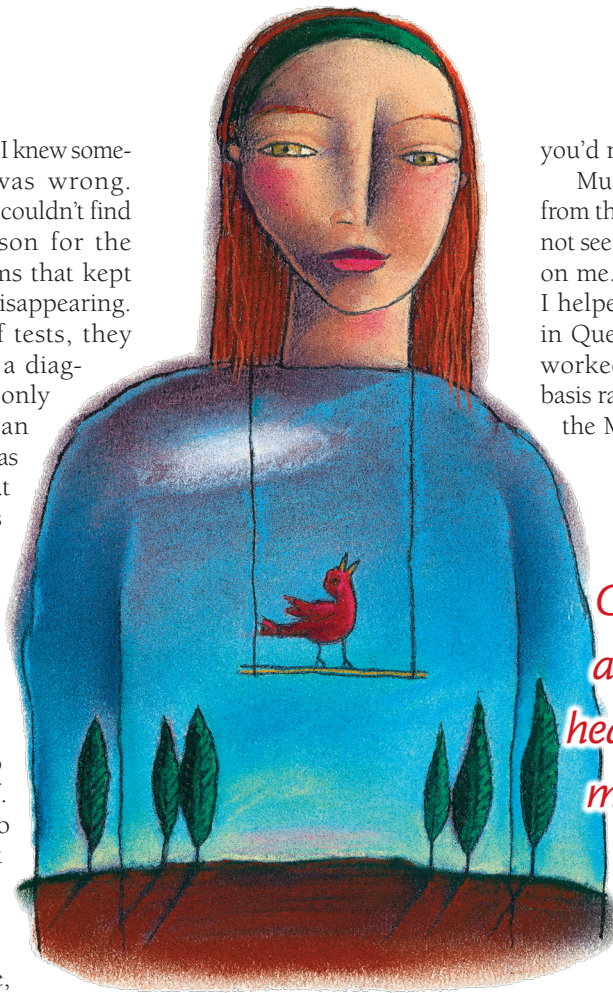
That day, I was given back something that had been removed—the right to decide.

Living In Grace

One of the hardest questions I've faced is: "How can you, a pastor, have this disease?" In other words, "Where is God in all this?" I've had many pastoral conversations to explain to others why God allows suffering. But the question raised my own doubts. Why was this happening?

Jeremiah 29:11 is one of my favourite passages in the Bible. In it, God says, "For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In spite of my questions and doubts, I take comfort in knowing who God is, what he has done and how long I have been on his mind. His answer to my prayers for healing has been a firm "no." But in the midst of my pain I am assured by his promise: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). He has put a song in my heart and given me a sense of his peace.

In his grace, God has lifted me up and carried me when I was weak. He has given me everything, surpassing all his promises. He has given me hope and a future—not in the way I envisioned, but in the way he planned my life to be for him. There is, after all, no place I would rather be than living in his grace. ☺



Mom, I'm Pregnant

When my daughter told me the news I didn't know how to respond

by Major Kathie Chiu

Corps Officer and Executive Director of The Caring Place Ministries, Mountain View Community Church, Maple Ridge, B.C.

Mom, I'm pregnant." The words felt like a hammer blow. Did my daughter just say what I thought she said? "I'm going to have a baby," 17-year-old Sarah confirmed.

My husband, Ed, and I sat in stunned silence. When words finally came, I couldn't hold back: "How could you? What were you thinking?"

Sarah and her boyfriend sat there staring at me, not knowing what to say. I continued like rapid machine-gun fire: "I thought you were into this chastity thing? How long have you been having sex? Why didn't you use birth control? I am so disappointed in you."

This was every parent's nightmare. And to make matters worse, I was almost four months pregnant myself. I could feel my body tense with stress. Tears were threatening to explode from the pressure building inside. How could this have happened? Were we not good parents? Where did we go wrong?

My practical nature soon took over. I announced that we would find a way to deal with the situation. We had no choice. Eventually I retreated to my room and let the tears flow. As I gave in to deep hurt, my husband was off somewhere cleaning something. How would he deal with this?

After a few days I realized that I hadn't felt my own baby move. Worried, I drove over to my midwife and she checked me out. As I shared my grief she listened with compassion. Checking my blood pressure and the baby's heartbeat, she discovered both were high.

"You must calm down," she said. "Let me tell you something. The same thing happened to my daughter when she was 17. Today, I have the most beautiful granddaughter who is the delight of my life. My daughter is a better person because of her experience. Remember, the consequence is not the sin. She could have contracted HIV or hepatitis. Instead, God chose to

bless her with a child."

I heard her. Somehow God broke through my grief and I sensed his love—for me and for Sarah. It was the truth. I would be OK.

Over the next week, reality began to set in. Yet my husband still wasn't talking much. I urged him to share his feelings, but to no avail. I prayed for him, for myself and for our daughter, and asked God to pour his love into our lives and give Ed the wisdom and courage to talk to Sarah.



Later, I found him in Sarah's room, telling her how hurt he was but how much he loved her. Then he did something that moved both of us. He cried—right there in front of Sarah and me—and his tears spoke louder than any words. She has never forgotten that moment.

When faced with a crisis, we all react in different ways. If you're like me, you use your words. If you're like my husband,

you keep your feelings close and guarded. Some people refuse to face reality and pretend nothing's wrong. Others obsess, playing their hurt over and over again in their minds.

However we deal with crises, in the end, relief from the pain can only be found in the healing power of God. As we cry out "Abba, Father!" his Holy Spirit channels our hurt to the heart of the Father. God knows pain and disappointment. He walks with us and guides us through the maze of anguish, anger and confusion. He also guides others into our lives at just the right moments to help us carry our burdens.

If you are facing a crisis in your life, here are suggestions for coping in difficult times:

- **Don't isolate yourself.** Cultivate personal relationships outside your immediate family—a best friend, a pastor, an elder at your corps—to call on when times are tough.
- **Don't be embarrassed.** Everyone makes mistakes. It's easier to deal with the consequences when we're up front about it and can share with someone.
- **Talk about your feelings.** Sometimes it takes more than one conversation to move on. Our minds need time to process what's happening.
- **Be patient.** Healing won't occur overnight, but healing will take place.
- **Don't live vicariously through your children.** They are separate individuals who will make their own choices. Every sin they commit is not a reflection of who you are.
- **Journal your experience.** Sometimes writing things down helps to get it out if you're not a talker. You don't have to be a talented writer. You just need a little notebook to jot down how you are doing from day to day. You can then look back and see how far you've come in dealing with the issues and celebrate God's answers to prayer. S



Colonel Eleanor Shepherd answers your questions

Beyond Our Comprehension

How can God listen to people's prayers in different languages from various places all at the same time?

We cannot imagine how God can do what seems to us completely impossible. For my grandparents, it was impossible to imagine sending the same letter at exactly the same time to 10 or 200 friends. They had to use a pen and paper or perhaps a typewriter and could only compose and send one letter at a time. By using carbon paper they could maybe make a few copies. With crude and messy photocopiers they might make several copies. However, each copy would need to be addressed and sent out individually. It was impossible to send them all out together instantly and be assured they would be received within min-

utes. Yet in our world today, we think nothing of sending letters electronically to as many friends as we want almost instantaneously.

In the same way, God is not limited to the methods of communication that we have available today. Our prayers can be heard, no matter where they are coming from, all at the same time. We must translate our e-mail messages if we want to send them to someone who speaks a different language than we do. However, God understands immediately the words and thoughts of all of us—in whatever language they are expressed, even when they are not articulated. The Bible tells us he hears our prayers

that are sighs too deep for words.

We cannot understand the ways of God. They are beyond the limits of time and space that confine our existence. Yet we have evidence by our answered prayers that God does hear and answer prayer. His unfailing love for us is beyond anything we can ask or imagine.

The editorial department thanks Colonel Shepherd for her spiritual insight and helpful comments in response to a variety of questions over the past year. As this series concludes, we wish her well in her ongoing retirement with her husband, Glen, in Montreal.

prayerzone

Prayer Diary 2008

July 1-7

Focus on Canada

- 1 Reflect on the benefits Canadians enjoy and thank God for the blessings you have experienced living in Canada
- 2 Meditate on 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- 3 Pray for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and members of Parliament
- 4 Pray for your premier and members of your provincial or territorial legislature
- 5 Pray for the Queen, Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the various lieutenant-governors throughout the country
- 6 Pray for the members of the judicial branch of government (Supreme Courts, provincial courts)
- 7 Pray for the members of your municipal government

July 8-14

Focus on our Territorial Mission Statement: The Salvation Army exists to meet human needs ...

- 8 Pray for CFS workers as they demonstrate the love of Christ by assisting those in need
- 9 Pray that ministry units will grasp the privilege the Army has to meet the physical needs of disaster victims and those who respond, and to administer emotional and spiritual care on an individual basis, "giving hope today" where there seems to be no hope
- 10 In the intensity of ministry, emergency disaster services caregivers may forget about their own well-being. Pray that they will acknowledge their vulnerability to trauma and recognize

their need of prayer and other caring support as they cope with the demands of their work

- 11 Pray that Salvation Army shelters will continue to provide safe havens for those living with the reality of homelessness
- 12 Pray for outreach ministries that provide meals, a safe place to talk and positive options
- 13 Pray that those who seek treatment from addictions will be empowered to break the cycle and find new life in Christ
- 14 Meditate on James 2:14-26

July 15-21

Focus on Camping Ministry

- 15 Pray for divisional youth leaders as they give direction to camp staff
- 16 Pray for staff members as they seek to provide a positive Christian influence to campers
- 17 Pray that campers will find a safe and nurturing environment at Salvation Army camps
- 18 Pray that campers will encounter the love of God through instructors and counsellors
- 19 Pray that campers will make new or renewed commitments to Christ
- 20 Pray that campers will continue to grow spiritually when they return home, and that corps youth leaders will have opportunities to encourage them in their faith
- 21 Pray for sufficient resources to support the various camping ministries throughout the territory

July 22-28

Focus on the British Columbia Division

- 22 Pray for the 24/7 Prayer Initiative occurring

throughout the division

- 23 Pray for preparations that are underway for the Army's ministry during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver
- 24 Pray for an integrated mission between and within ministry units
- 25 Pray for greater awareness and critical strategies being developed by the anti-human-trafficking working group
- 26 Pray for the leadership camp (Aug 25-28) as participants "move forward with divisional strategic thrust"
- 27 Pray for the men's camp (Sep 19-21) with guest leader Mjr Doug Hefford
- 28 Pray for Youth Together (Southern Region, Oct 17-19), that there will be a great spiritual outpouring on the young people

July 29-31

Focus on People in Transition

- 29 Pray for corps and other ministry units experiencing changes in leadership with the arrival of newly appointed officers
- 30 Pray for officers who are making the transition into new appointments
- 31 Pray for the children of officers with new appointments, that those who have accompanied their parents will find acceptance in their new setting, and that those who have stayed behind will find support as they adjust to life away from their families

The 2008 Prayer Diary is available online at Salvationist.ca. To receive your copy by e-mail, contact Major Gail Winsor, spiritual life and prayer co-ordinator, at gail_winsor@can.salvationarmy.org



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